



BAYLOR

School of Music

Semper Pro Musica

February 2017 Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 3

From the Dean



The month of February will be packed with recitals, conferences, competitions, and other notable happenings in the life of the School. In February, we hope to bring six faculty searches to conclusion. On February 12, we will hold the final round of the **Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition**. The finals will take place in Jones Concert Hall beginning at 1:00 pm and will last until all fifteen solo finalists and all four groups in the chamber finals have performed. That night our panel of three external judges will decide who will go to Carnegie Hall on May 25, 2017, to perform in Weill Recital Hall at 8:00 pm.

Another major event in the life of the School will be the screening of the film ***Composed*** with the director/producer of the film, **John Beder**, in attendance. This screening will take place on Wednesday, February 15, at 7:00 pm in Roxy Grove Hall. The event is open to the public and is free of charge. At the conclusion of the film, a panel comprised of John Beder, Elisa Barghash, Lesley McAllister, Martha Lou Scott, and Eric Wilson will discuss the film, in an open dialogue with those in attendance. *Composed* is a film that deals with the stresses and challenges young musicians face as they develop musically, physically, emotionally, and psychologically. It is a timely film in the life of the School of Music and one that should be of great benefit to our students, faculty, and staff, and of great interest to the public at large. I hope you can be with us on February 15 at 7:00 pm in Roxy Grove Hall.



Filmmaker John Beder

A poster of *Composed* can be viewed near the conclusion of this newsletter.

Gary Mortenson, Dean

Our Students

2017 Concerto Competition Results



Congratulations to **Brian Bires**, winner of the 2017 Baylor University School of Music Concerto Competition. Brian's winning performance of the Penderecki Viola Concerto was selected from finalist performances representing all areas in the instrumental and keyboard divisions of the School of Music. As a winner, Brian will return to campus during the 2017-18 academic year to perform the concerto with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra. Brian is a senior BME student from Houston, Texas, and has been a viola student of Kathryn Steely for the past six years.

Violist Brian Bires, winner of the 2017 Baylor Concerto Competition

2017 Concerto Competition Finalists included:

Brian Bires, viola, student of Kathryn Steely

Christopher Boulais, trumpet, student of Wiff Rudd
Brianna Compton, tuba, student of Kent Eschelman
Maria Dell'Orefice, piano, student of Jane Abbott-Kirk
Joseph Duque, violin, student of Eka Gogichashvili
Carl Feaster, piano, student of Jane Abbott-Kirk
Benjamin Quarles, bass clarinet, student of Jun Qian
John Wardlaw, saxophone, student of Michael Jacobson

2017 Judges included:

Harry Elzinga, professor emeritus, Baylor University
Spring Hill, Houston Grand Opera, Ballet, and ROCO
Lynn Ledbetter, professor of violin, Texas State University
Don Little, professor of tuba, University of North Texas
Adam Wodnicki, professor of piano, University of North Texas

The School of Music thanks music faculty Cameron Hofmann, who accompanied six finalists, and graduate students Sarah Joseph and Alex Kostadinov for playing second piano for the keyboard finalists. The School thanks the Competition Organizer, Doris DeLoach, for her leadership and Ruth Tucker, Kathy Johnson, Jim Grady, and Angela Traylor for logistical support.

Trombone Studio Attends Big XII Trombone Conference

Over the weekend of January 20, students from the studio of **Brent Phillips** experienced an inspirational weekend at the Big XII Trombone Conference held at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. The group enjoyed full choir reading and jazz improvisation sessions, as well as clinics with Joseph Alessi (principal trombone, New York Philharmonic). The Baylor Trombone Choir performed a feature concert at the conference, playing new works by Christian Paarp and challenging works by Derek Bourgeois and Prokofiev. Faculty from the University of Michigan, Ball State, Texas A&M-Commerce, UT-Rio Grande Valley, Augustana College, University of Virginia, Georgia State, Texas State, West Virginia University, Eastern Illinois, Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin University, Del Mar College, University of New Mexico, and Western Carolina University presented, performed, and conducted their respective choirs.

Professor Phillips reports that he was very pleased with the level of musicianship and maturity of the Baylor Trombone Choir and received feedback on their performance from faculty, former students, and quartet colleagues concerning the high level of Baylor trombone playing. Most notably, Jimmy Clark (Texas A&M-Commerce faculty), David Jackson (University of Michigan faculty), Aric Schneller (Sam Houston State faculty), and members of the American Trombone Quartet all commented on how impressed they were by the Baylor Trombone Choir's performance. The Faculty Showcase Recital included Professor Phillips, who gave the premiere of a new arrangement of Stravinsky's Pulcinella Suite.

Baylor trombone student Austin Westjohn competed in the finals of the Big XII Trombone Solo Competition, performing with precision and musical command. Baylor students attending the Big XII Trombone Conference included: Rachel Cornell, Nick Halbig, Matthew Harris, William Henry, Brandon Johnson, Andrew Moser, Derek Moseley, Colin Napier, Jonathan Passmore, Scott Quintana, Eric Sweet, and Austin Westjohn.



The Baylor University Trombone Studio with Joseph Alessi (front, second from right) and Brent Phillips (front, right)

Church Music Doctoral Student Updates:



Samuel Eatherton (DMA student) has received the first Schalk Scholars Award at the annual Lectures in Church Music at Concordia University. Named after the composer and church music scholar Carl Schalk, the Schalk Scholars Award is given to young scholars and writers on church music in the Lutheran tradition. In addition to his studies at Baylor, Sam is Minister of Music and grades 3-8 music teacher at Zion Lutheran Church and School in Dallas, and a published composer.

Nate Myrick (PhD student) will present a paper at the Society for Ethnomusicology – Southern Plains Conference, March 4-5, at the University of Texas in Rio Grande Valley.

Jacob Sensenig (PhD student) will present a paper at the Society for Christian Scholarship and Music annual meeting, February 9-11, at Scripps College, Claremont, California.



Marcell Steuernagel (PhD student) will also present a paper at the Society for Ethnomusicology and the Society for Christian Scholarship. Additionally, he will present at the Twenty-Third Performance Studies International Conference in Hamburg, Germany, June 8-11. Marcell has had an article published, “Historia e estrutura do Hinos do Povo de Deus, vol. 1” in the June 2016 issue of *Vox Scriptura*, a Brazilian theological journal.

Baylor Trumpet Studio Competes at NTC and for Premier D.C. Military Bands

Trumpet teachers **Wiff Rudd** and **Mark Schubert** have a large portion of their studios competing in the National Trumpet Competition (NTC) Division Semi-Finals at the University of Denver in March of 2017, and also auditioning for full-time positions in two of our nation’s premier military bands.

NTC Semi-Finalists:

Undergraduate Solo Division: Cameron Abtahi, Abby Barto, Chris Boulais, John Burton, Luke Hoeft, Nathan Little, Ross Mitchell, Tyler Moore, Stephen Spink, Sally Tepper, Joey Tkach. These eleven students are among forty finalists selected from 156 recordings entered for consideration.

Graduate Solo Division: Graduate Assistant Clare Hogan advanced to the semi-finals along with Baylor University alumni, Daniel Gerona (University of Kansas), Regan O’Connor (Southern Methodist University), Chelsea Orr (University of Colorado), and Tamara Vaughn (University of Texas).

Trumpet Ensembles Division: Both the Baylor Green and Gold Trumpet Ensembles have advanced to the Large and Small Ensemble semi-finals.



Baylor University Trumpet Students

Military Band Auditions (after prescreen recorded auditions):

US Army Ceremonial Band “Pershing’s Own”

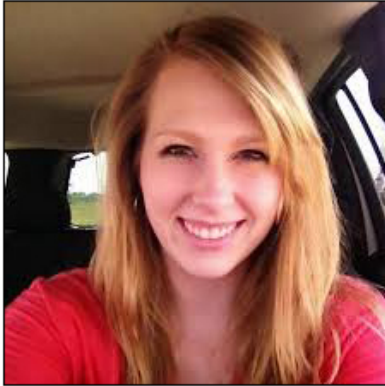
Chris Boulais (senior from Texas)

Sally Tepper (junior from Florida)

US Air Force Band

Stephen Spink (sophomore from Colorado)

Joey Tkach (freshman from Texas)



Brianna Compton (MM tuba student), has been chosen as one of ten finalists in the Mika Hasler Young Artist Competition. This competition is open to all instrumentalists age twenty-three and under. The final round will take place at Rice University on February 5, when the competitors will vie for a \$5,000 first place prize and a \$1,000 second place prize. Brianna is a student of Kent Eshelman.



Maria Dell'Orefice was chosen as one of the winners of the Clara Freshour Nelson Music Scholarship, presented by the Texas Association of Music Schools (TAMS). On January 26, Maria performed *L'isle Joyeuse* by Claude Debussy at the conference's opening banquet. Maria is a student of Jane Abbott-Kirk.

Our Faculty

Baylor TMEA Presentations/Performances

Michael Alexander – “The Status of Orchestral Programs in the United States” and “Developing Young Musicians as Independent Learners”

Michele Henry – “Doing College Right: Advice from Experts”

Alex Parker – “Teaching Improvisation: Simple Ways to Help Students Make the Changes”

Brent Phillips – Music Showcase Performance with Texas Select Trombone Quartet and “Slide Technique: It’s NOT All About the Air” (with the Baylor Trombone Choir).

Jun Qian – “Clarinet Methods: Fundamentals First” with the Baylor Clarinet Choir

Wiff Rudd – “Trumpets on the Conveyor Belt: Preparing for the Next Level”

Baylor “Most Impactful Educators” Awards:

During the fall 2016 semester, first-time freshmen and transfer students were asked to name the person who has been most influential in their success at Baylor. Out of the 2,700 full-time faculty and staff at Baylor, only 150 (slightly more than 5%) of the faculty or staff had at least three new students say that person was most influential in their success at Baylor. Five School of Music faculty members were recognized among this group of dedicated teachers:

Lynne Gackle

Kathy McNeil

Curtis Streetman

Randall Umstead

Deborah Williamson

Our Alumni

Michael Colman (BM voice, 2012), a student of Deborah Williamson, will be headlining the touring production of Virginia Opera’s *The Three Little Pigs* (with music by Mozart. Michael will be playing the part of the Big Bad Wolf.

Rachel Colman (BM voice, 2012), a student of Robert Best, recently performed Bach’s *Magnificat* and Handel’s *Messiah* with the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston.

Rebekah Howell (BM voice, 2014), a student of Robert Best, won the 2016 Mid-Texas Symphony Young Artist Competition.

Sean Jackson (BME voice, 2015), a student of Randall Umstead, recently performed as a soloist in the Houston Symphony Orchestra’s performance of Haydn’s *The Creation*.

Staff Sergeant **Gerald Novak** (percussion) and Master Gunnery Sergeant **Steve Longoria** (principal saxophone), both 1996 Bachelor of Music in Applied Music graduates of the Baylor University School of Music, performed with “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in the 58th Inauguration of the President of the United States on January 20, 2017. The Marine Band provided music for the Inauguration swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol, led the second division of the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, and performed at the Salute to the Armed Forces Inaugural Ball. “The President’s Own” is the only musical unit to participate in all three events.



SSG Gerald Novak



MGySgt Steve Longoria

Our Future

Board of Advocates

In April 2016, the School of Music hosted the first meeting of the Baylor University School of Music Board of Advocates. The board is composed of alumni and business and professional leaders who are committed to the vitality of the School of Music at Baylor University. The Board helps the School of Music to strengthen its educational, creative, research, and outreach programs, improve its facilities, expand its base of support, and serve its alumni.

The Board of Advocates includes Oliver and Greta Abtahi, Babs Baugh, Wayne Fisher, Ben Gatzke,

Georgia Green, Giancarlo Guerrero, Carey and Stacie Hendrickson, Kurt Kaiser, Trammell Kelly, Lyndon Olson, Jr., Allison Peterson, Nathan and Michal Taylor, James Williams, and Betty Wilson.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Advocates or giving to the School of Music, please contact Clayton Ellis, Director of Development, School of Music, Baylor University:
Clayton_Ellis@baylor.edu

Our Calendar

Summer Voice Institute, Continuing Professional Education for Vocal Music Educators

The Baylor University School of Music Division of Vocal Studies faculty is pleased to announce the 2017 inaugural **Summer Voice Institute**, a continuing professional education opportunity for teachers of vocal/choral music. Institute Coordinator, Dr. Deborah Williamson says, “The institute is conceived as an opportunity for music educators to enhance their knowledge in areas such as Lyric Diction, Song Literature, Vocal Pedagogy, and Applied Voice while earning 24-25 hours of credit toward their Texas Education Agency mandated hours of Continuing Professional Education. Faculty members in the Baylor University Division of Vocal Studies have earned advanced degrees that require specialization in these areas, and have maintained expertise in the same through teaching and sustained professional activity. Therefore, we are highly qualified to provide support through continued education and professional development to teachers of vocal/choral music.”

Enrollment is open to choral music educators and private voice teachers. Course offerings in the 2017 Summer Voice Institute will include the participant’s choice of one of the following: French Lyric Diction, German Lyric Diction, Song Literature, or Vocal Pedagogy. The Diction and Song Literature courses will include particular focus on repertoire from the Texas UIL Prescribed Music List (choral and solo). Participants may also request a one-hour private voice lesson for an additional fee.

The Summer Voice Institute will be held on the campus of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, on July 6-8, 2017. Baylor University is an accredited institute of higher education and is a Texas Education Agency approved Continuing Professional Education provider. For more information and to register for the Summer Voice Institute, please visit our website at <http://www.baylor.edu/music/voiceinstitute>.

The **Center for Christian Music Studies** is excited to present the third annual **Worship Lab at Baylor University**. This high quality musical learning experience will take place on our campus July 18-21, 2017. This camp will be geared towards young, aspiring worship leaders and instrumentalists (rising ninth graders through just graduated twelfth graders). Worship Lab stands apart from other events for its intentionally small feel and intimate setting. The visiting artists who participate in our camp build relationships and dialogue one-on-one with students. At Baylor, our desire is to encourage the education of worship, while allowing students to develop world-class skills and God-sized hearts.

This summer’s camp will be led in part by Robbie Seay and The Digital Age. Topics during the camp will include worship leadership, technology, music writing, instrumental techniques, and many others. Each morning will begin with breakfast and devotionals lead by our visiting worship artists.

Students will spend the morning and afternoon in separate band rehearsals, breakout sessions for specific instruments, and exploring various topics related to worship. Students will attend worship services each morning, combined with those attending the Alleluia Conference. Evening sessions will feature our visiting artists with testimonials, music, and questions from students.

Registration is open January 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017. Learn more at <http://www.baylor.edu/worshiplab>.

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: <http://www.baylor.edu/music/index.php?id=863427>

Performances of Baylor's major ensembles in Jones Concert Hall are presented via live web streaming. To access the schedule and link to live streamed events, visit: <https://www.baylor.edu/music/live>

NOTE: Baylor does not archive live-streamed performances.

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

Coming on Wednesday, February 15, at 7:00 pm in Roxy Grove Hall ...



The Baylor University School of Music
With Bedrock Lab Productions and John Beder, director/producer
Presents:

COMPOSED

TUNING OUT THE NOISE FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR LIFE

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
7:00 PM
Roxy Grove Hall
Free Admission

Following the screening will be a Q&A and discussion session with Director John Beder and a panel of Baylor administration and staff with backgrounds in student life, counseling and mental health.



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