



BAYLOR

School of Music

Semper Pro Musica

April 2018 Newsletter

Volume 3, No. 4

From the Dean

Late March here on our campus is a time when the trees and flowers are coming to life and a time when the musical activities in our spaces are bursting forth with non-stop lecture/presentations, recitals, and concerts. It is simply a time of intense activity both on our campus and in the larger world, as we share so much of what we have been working for throughout the academic year. From our performances at important state, regional, and national music conferences, to our dissemination of research in journals and presentations, to the outreach work we do to bring music to a wide range of populations whose lives are richer for it, we are active in too many ways to accurately describe in the context of this introductory column.

So please take a few minutes and scroll through this final newsletter of our Volume 3 season, and catch up on all the wonderful things going on in the Baylor School of Music.

Thank you for your support, and enjoy the rest of the newsletter!

Gary Mortenson – Dean
School of Music



In the Spotlight

Spotlight on 2018 Semper Pro Musica Winners

The *Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition* is in its third year in the School of

Music at Baylor University. In September of 2015, during his first semester as dean, Gary Mortenson developed the conceptual framework for *Semper Pro Musica*. The goal of the competition is to identify the top talent in the school through two rounds of competition and to present a winners' recital at a significant external venue to the school. Approximately 60 students participated in the 2016 competition; approximately 90 students participated in the First Round of the 2016-17 competition; and more than 120 students participated in the First Round of the 2018 competition. The eighteen student winners (six soloists and four chamber groups) who advanced through the Final Round of the 2018 *Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition* will be presented at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on Thursday, May 24. President Linda Livingstone and Dean Gary Mortenson will serve as recital hosts. To purchase tickets, contact the School of Music or visit carnegiehall.org.



Front row (seated): Bryce Turner (percussion), Maria Dell'Orefice (piano), Ben Quarles (clarinet), Emily Monk (cello), Joey Tkach (trumpet), Julia Powers (mezzo-soprano); Back row (standing): David Medina (percussion), Caleb Evans (percussion), Ian Houston (percussion), Talia Dugan (clarinet), Zerek Dodson (piano), Helena Bandy (violin), Rebekah Lambert (piano), Stephen Spink (trumpet), Nathan Little (trumpet), Clare Hogan (trumpet), Sally Tepper (trumpet), Amy Barto (trumpet)

The *Semper Pro Musica Organ Competition* is in its first year in the School of Music at Baylor University. This competition will be held every other year as part of the larger *Semper Pro Musica Competition* structure. In 2018, three student organists performed in the finals on March 13. The finals were judged by Paul Jacobs, Head of the Organ Department at the Juilliard School. The winner of the organ competition was Jared Cook. Mr. Cook will be presented in recital with his teacher, Isabelle Demers, on Wednesday, May 23, at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church on Park Avenue in New York City at 8:00 pm. Admission is free.



Jared Cook (organ)

Spotlight on Eric Amouzou

For international student Eric Amouzou (MM in Church Music), the span of time between his application to Baylor and his first step on the campus lasted two years that were full of major obstacles with transcript review, getting a visa, and waiting on funding. After nearly giving up hope, Amouzou's approved paperwork came in, and within a week he was making his way to the U.S. to start classes for the spring 2018 semester.

Traveling to Baylor from Africa was a trial of its own, involving multiple days of flights and a long Greyhound bus trip from Philadelphia to Waco. Amouzou, who is from Accra, Ghana, found Baylor through an online search after finishing an undergraduate degree in piano performance from University of Education, Winneba. While many of his friends chose to stay and pursue graduate degrees in Ghana, Amouzou decided to take the chance and apply to Baylor. He says, "My life has always been based on change and daring myself to make changes. I struggled with the idea of taking the offer where I was ... but I told my supervisor, 'No, I've made up my mind to go. If it's a challenge, I want to take it.' "

Attending Baylor has been both a blessing and a major culture shock for Amouzou, who says he still has "a lot of adjusting to do, but at the end of the day, I've found a family, a home, in Men's Choir. The sharing of the same faith—that has been a common ground for me." As someone who has always thought seriously about music in the church, Amouzou has found joy in being around others who "understand what he is doing" and push him toward excellence. One of Amouzou's research interests is music and cultural identity, and he is eager to contextualize the conversations at Baylor to his own background. Amouzou finds that there are few who see church music as a serious field in Ghana, and he believes that the training he is receiving at Baylor will allow him to "stand in that gap" in his own country.



Eric Amouzou

Our Students

Regional and National Appearances

The **Baylor University Men's Choir**, under the direction of Randall Bradley, performed at the 2018 Southwest American Choral Directors Association Conference in Oklahoma City on March 8.

Bella Voce, under the direction of Lynne Gackle, performed at the 2018 Southwest American Choral Directors Association Conference in Oklahoma City on March 9.



The Men's Choir and Bella Voce in Oklahoma City

The **Baylor University Wind Ensemble**, under the direction of Eric Wilson, performed as a featured ensemble at the 2018 American Band Masters Association Conference in Fort Worth on March 9.



The **Baylor University Symphonic Band**, under the direction of Isaiah Odajima, performed at the College Band Directors National Association, Southwestern Regional Conference, at the University of Houston on Wednesday, March 21.

The **Baylor University Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble** performed a recital under the direction of Kent Eshelman at the South Central Regional Conference of the International Tuba-Euphonium Association, held at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. Their performance featured graduating master's student Austin Crumrine in his own arrangement of *Teen Town* by Jaco Pastorius, as well as world-renowned guest soloist Ben Pierce. Six Baylor students took part, with notable success, in several categories of competitions. Junior **Dillon Jefferies** won first place in the mock orchestra audition, and freshman **Chase Windmueller** was runner-up in the student division of the euphonium solo competition. Dr. Eshelman also performed a solo recital.



The **Trumpet Studio** of Wiff Rudd and Mark Schubert was exceptionally well represented at the National Trumpet Competition (NTC) in March. All seventeen members of the trumpet studio competed in the competition, which was held at the University of North Texas. Soloists chosen to perform included the following undergraduates: Amy Barto, Cordelia DeDecker, Ryan James Fitzgerald, Johan Kelly, Ryan McArthur, Ross Mitchell, Tyler Moore, Stephen Spink, Sally Tepper, and Joey Tkach. In the graduate division, Claire Hogan competed, as well as recent Baylor graduate Regan O'Connor (now pursuing a masters at SMU). All three Baylor Trumpet Ensembles (Baylor Green, Baylor, and Baylor Gold) competed in the NTC Trumpet Ensemble Competition. The Undergraduate Division of the NTC Solo Competition was particularly competitive this year with 174 applications for 60 spots. When all was said and done, the following NTC Final Results included entries from the Baylor trumpet studio:

- Small Ensemble Trumpet Ensemble Finals, First Place – Baylor University (Gold Ensemble)
- Large Trumpet Ensemble Finals, Second Place – Baylor University (Bernstein Ensemble)
- Undergraduate Solo Finals, Second Place – Joey Tkach, Baylor University (sophomore)
- Undergraduate Solo Finals, Third Place – Cordelia DeDecker, Baylor University (freshman)



Baylor University Gold Ensemble (National Trumpet Competition, 1st Place, Small Ensemble Division)

left to right: Stephen Spink, Clare Hogan, Sally Tepper, Joey Tkach, Nathan Little, Abby Barto

Other Student News

John-Micah Braswell, Casey Daniel, and Andy Eaton performed as part of the February Music and Memory performance at Living Springs Village. While there, the three musicians interacted with the residents before, during, and after the performance. The residents and staff were struck with the professionalism and easy-going demeanor as the students performed and interacted with one another and with the audience. The musicians performed familiar, beloved tunes recorded by Frank Sinatra, Sonny and Cher, and other entertainers that were easily recognized by the residents of Living Springs Village, many of whom sang along with the music. Deborah Williamson, faculty sponsor of the Music and Memory Program in the School of Music, stated that she was “proud of our wonderful students that day and pleased to see that they seemed to enjoy themselves immensely.”

Ted Brauker, PhD student in Church Music, was named Ranger College Faculty Member of the Year in December 2017.



Cameron Clements, MM saxophone student of Michael Jacobson, has been chosen as the winner of the Baylor Concerto Competition. He competed against a field of eight other graduate and undergraduate students from the piano, strings, brass, percussion, and woodwind areas. He will perform his chosen piece, the *Concerto pour Saxophone Alto et Orchestre* by Henri Tomasi, with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra during the fall semester of the 2018-19 academic year. Cameron is in his first year of graduate study and is the Graduate Assistant in Dr. Michael Jacobson's saxophone studio. He came to Baylor from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Saxophone Performance and Music Education (2017). He has earned numerous honors or awards from Louisiana State University, Pi Kappa Lambda, the Louisiana Music Teachers National Association, the Music Club of Baton Rouge, the Great Composers Competition, the Marjorie Stricklin Emerging Artists Competition, and the Presser Foundation. As a soloist, highlights include concerti performances with the Monroe Symphony, the LSU Wind Ensemble, and the LSU Symphony Orchestra. Cameron has also performed commercially with artists such as Ned Fasullo's Fabulous Big Band, Beaucoop Boogie, The Anteeeks, Theatre Baton Rouge, and various churches throughout the Baton Rouge area. His primary teachers and influences include Griffin Campbell (LSU saxophone professor), Brian Shaw, Scott Sandberg, and Michael Jacobson.



Austin Crumrine, MM student of Kent Eshelman in tuba performance, was awarded a Teaching Assistantship for DMA studies at The Ohio State University. He was also selected as the tubist for the 2018 Hot Springs Music Festival. Austin was featured as soloist with the Baylor Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble at the South Central Regional Conference of the International Tuba-Euphonium Association.



Andrew Eaton, MM student of Robert Best in Vocal Performance, was awarded Second Place in the MTNA National Young Artist Voice Competition in Orlando, Florida. This is the third time in the last four years that a current Baylor student or recent graduate has placed first or second in that competition.



Ethan Gordon, BME student of Kent Eshelman, was accepted with scholarship into the Buffet Crampon USA Tuba/Euphonium Academy, a workshop with renowned international guest artists to be held this summer at Oklahoma City University.

Dillon Jefferies, BM student of Kent Eshelman in tuba performance, was selected as the tubist for both the Round Top Festival Institute and the Texas Music Festival. Dillon was also the winner of the mock orchestra audition at the 2018 South Central Regional Conference of the International Tuba-Euphonium Association.



Benjamin Kauffman, BM tuba student of Kent Eshelman, was selected as the tubist for the Eastern Music Festival.

Maria Monteiro, PhD student in Church Music, published an article, “Bilingual Song,” in *Crafting*

Songs and Hymns: A Collection of Short Essays to Inspire and Challenge Church Musicians (Center for Congregational Song, 2017), and another article, “ ‘This Is My Song’: Profile of a Bilingual Congregation in the Heart of San Antonio,” in *Reformed Worship* (March 2018). She also co-presented several sessions at the Calvin Symposium on Christian Worship in January 2018.



Matthew Newhouse, BM vocal performance student of Randall Umstead, has recently been named a VOCES8 USA Scholar for the 2018-2019 season. As a VOCES8 USA Scholar, Matthew will work with the critically-acclaimed British vocal ensemble, VOCES8, in developing skills such as ensemble performing, studio recording, and workshop leading. Envisioned as a program for young singers entering the professional world or pursuing further education, Matthew will be the only undergraduate singer in the Scholars at the start of the season.



Chase Windmueller, BM student of Kent Eshelman in euphonium performance, was the runner-up in the Student Division of the Euphonium Solo Competition at the 2018 South Central Regional Conference of the International Tuba-Euphonium Association.



Our Faculty

Alfredo Colman, Associate Professor of Musicology/Ethnomusicology, has presented a conference paper, “Autobiography and [Music and] History Lesson [?]: Florentín Giménez’s Sinfonía No. 1 ‘Metamorfosis’ ,” at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Music (SAM) in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Colman is the leading researcher on the music of contemporary Paraguayan composer Florentín Giménez (b. 1925).



Isabelle Demers, Associate Professor of Organ, performed at Abingdon Episcopal Church in White Marsh, Virginia, on March 10 as part of the Abingdon Concert Series. This past November, Dr. Demers’s recording titled *The Chorale Fantasias of Max Reger*, was released to critical acclaim on the

Acis label. This CD project was recorded on the Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1024 organ at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Amarillo, Texas. On May 23, Dr. Demers will be featured along with her student, Jared Cook, in recital on the Aeolian-Skinner organ at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church on Park Avenue in New York City. The recital is free and open to the public and starts at 8:00 pm. This event, the Organ Winner's Recital, is part of the 2018 *Semper Pro Musica Competition*.



Kent Eshelman, Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium, performed a solo recital as guest artist at the University of North Texas in January and at the South Central Regional Conference of the International Tuba-Euphonium Association in March, where he also served as an adjudicator for the euphonium mock band audition and directed the Baylor Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble. In February and March, he was featured as soloist in seven performances of movements from Michael Daugherty's *Reflections on the Mississippi* with the Baylor Wind Ensemble, including a performance at the American Bandmasters Association Convention in Fort Worth.



Monique Ingalls, Assistant Professor of Church Music, was one of twenty-four tenure-track faculty

members selected for the Rising Stars Program by Baylor's Office of Vice Provost of Research. As part of the program, she traveled in February to Washington, D.C., to meet with representatives of the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, and Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Ingalls's new co-edited book, *Making Congregational Music Local in Christian Communities Worldwide*, was published by Routledge Press in March 2018 as part of the Congregational Music Studies series. By examining case studies from all six continents, this book contends that congregational music-making does not only reflect the local, but also helps Christians to define what "local" means and to position themselves relative to other Christian communities on regional, national, and global levels. Dr. Ingalls also received two competitive internal grants for her new research project on British gospel choirs, including a grant from the Baylor Institute of Oral History 2018-19 Faculty Fellowship and a Proposal Development Award from Baylor's Office of the Vice Provost for Research.



David Music, Professor of Church Music, has had his edition of *Thomas Hastings: Anthems* published in the peer-reviewed series *Recent Researches in American Music*, Vol. 83 (A-R Editions). David will be receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Baptist Church Music Conference at their annual meeting in San Antonio on April 22-24. Dr. Music's scholarly output is unprecedented among Baptist church music scholars and covers a number of research areas, including congregational song, scholarly editions, biography, and philosophy.



Robin Wallace, Professor of Musicology, has been published through the Center for Beethoven Research at Boston University's online publications. His work titled *The Critical Reception of Beethoven's Compositions by His German Contemporaries*, Op. 125, is a long-awaited publication that provides English translations of the German-language reception of Beethoven's iconic Ninth Symphony up to 1830. Wallace's exceptional work marks the first of several projected online publications by the Center to complete the translation project started in the first two volumes of *The Critical Reception of Beethoven's Compositions by His German Contemporaries* (University of Nebraska Press, 1999; 2001). These publications will ultimately make the remainder of the entire output of German-language Beethoven reception prior to 1830 accessible to English-speaking readers.



Angela Yoon, Lecturer in Voice, was selected to participate in the 2018 National Association of Teachers of Singing Intern Program, a ten-day forum that pairs experienced and recognized master teachers with talented early-career members of NATS. The Class of 2018 NATS Interns includes twelve voice teachers and three collaborative pianists. This year's voice interns will work with master teachers Margaret Cusack (Westminster Choir College), Matt Edwards (Shenandoah University), Brian Gill (Indiana University), and Jan Prokop (NYC Independent Studio and Montclair State University). The program will be held at the University of Colorado – Boulder, June 4-14.



Our Alumni

Taylor Davis (BME in Percussion, 2017), who studied percussion with Todd Meehan, recently won a Presser Award to fund the creation of a website supplementing percussion education in the public school system. Taylor is currently working on the MM in Percussion at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. This website project will improve the quality of education that young percussionists receive and act as an educational resource to augment classroom instruction. It will further inform music educators who are not native to percussion, and allow them to elevate their teaching. Taylor's background as both a student and certified teacher in percussion, with experience in video production, puts him in a unique position to music teachers in a previously unexplored way. Band directors seek to teach every instrument with equal proficiency, but percussion suffers due to the sheer number of instruments within the family. Research shows that a percussionist faces unique challenges unlike his peers who play woodwind or brass instruments, and schools are often unequipped to meet the needs of these students. The website he is developing will be called *Percussion Pal* and has four main content areas: Beginning Pedagogy, Intermediate and Advanced Techniques, Digital Performance Library, and Educational Forum.



Ricardo Gómez (MM in Violin Performance, 2017), who studied with Bruce Berg, has been appointed assistant concertmaster of La Orquesta Filarmónica del Desierto de Coahuila, in Saltillo, Mexico. Ricardo was a solo winner of the 2017 *Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition* and made his Carnegie Hall debut on May 25, 2017.



Giancarlo Guerrero (BM in Percussion, 1991) has been appointed principal guest conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon, Portugal. In an interview with *USA Today*, Maestro Guerrero stated: “Gulbenkian was the first orchestra I conducted in Europe, so it has a special place in my heart. Returning as principal guest conductor feels a bit like coming home... There was a wonderful chemistry with the musicians from the very first concert I performed with them more than a decade ago, and they have been so welcoming every time I have returned. They took a chance on me as a young conductor, and I remain grateful for that.” Guerrero has been the Music Director of the Nashville Symphony since 2009 and is contracted to remain with that organization through the 2024-2025 season. During his years with the Nashville Symphony, the orchestra has won five Grammy Awards. Maestro Guerrero will be guest conducting the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in

October 2018. During his stay in Texas, he will do a short residency at Baylor University, spending time with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra, as well as with other students in the School of Music.



Jay Hunter Morris (BME in Vocal Education, 1986) will be performing in *Elektra* by Richard Strauss at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City in March. Later this year, he will perform Richard Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* with the Dallas Opera.



Alyssa Plumb (McNeil) (BM, 2007), a student of Jeffrey Powers, teaches at Alexander Elementary School in Katy, Texas. Alyssa's SingRAE Choir performed at the 2018 Texas Music Educators Association Conference as one of only two elementary-level invited honor choirs. In addition to teaching at Alexander, Mrs. Plumb also teaches French horn lessons and performs with the Houston Sinfonietta. Her horn students have earned honors at the regional and area levels and have played with youth orchestras in Houston.



Alyssa Plumb (in black, at left) with her choir SingRAE at TMEA 2018

We are interested in hearing from our alumni! To submit items for inclusion in the E-Newsletter, please email Dean Gary Mortenson (gary_mortenson@baylor.edu) and include your name, degree(s), year of graduation, major professor, JPEG portrait, and news item.

Our Future

Board of Advocates

On April 20, 2018, the School of Music will host the spring 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 2017-18 Board of Advocates includes Cory and Amy Anderson, Babs Baugh, Barbara Elliott, Wayne Fisher, Ben Gatzke, Georgia Green, Giancarlo Guerrero, Carey and Stacie Hendrickson, Kurt Kaiser, Trammell Kelly, Kevin and Carole Lyons, 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

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: <https://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/index.php?id=935526> 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.



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