NOTES FROM MASON Music News Summer 2012



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT FREDONIA

Dear Alumni & Friends,

In this issue of *Notes from Mason*, you'll get to read about many of the activities of the past year. We decided to devote considerable space to the profound experience of Yo-Yo Ma's visit. As I have said to many people over the months since, I'm not sure I understand how someone can come to a community that has such high expectations of him, and then surpass them all for everyone with such ease and grace. It really was a great few days for those involved, so we want to be able to give all of you the opportunity to get at least a glimpse of what they were like.



That event represents something of an arrival point in our evolution. The steady increase in the number of performances, recitals, and guest master classes has been coupled with and inspired by new faculty and students eager to achieve the high standards expected of them. Music education has always been our focus, and around this has grown increasingly vibrant programs that complement our core. Some students now enjoy the benefits of a conservatory while they pursue their tangible career track, all from a liberal arts college foundation. The faculty has talked in recent years about national reputation, international auditions, ensemble touring, fund-raising, community engagement, entrepreneurship and marketing. Such discussions live in our consciousness now, and in the coming months you are likely to see these bearing fruit, starting with the establishment of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Fredonia's School of Music is now comprehensive, where students can explore their interests in music and venture toward meaningful lives and careers among a full range of possibilities. A large music school, a variety of degree programs, music education at its core, a small campus, and a devoted faculty: these combine to provide unique opportunities for the young artist to learn, explore and grow.

To keep up with all that's going on, please sign up for our weekly eNews event list. You'll find the tool to do that right on our music web page: *www.fredonia.edu/music*. Come visit us regularly online, and keep in touch with us on Facebook. Also, please consider helping us carry out our many initiatives by making a donation to any of the funds at *www.fredonia.edu/music/give*. We really need your help, so please join the effort.

Karl Boelter, Director

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Cover photographs clockwise from top-left: Yo-Yo Ma works with the College Symphony Orchestra; members of the Percussion Ensemble warm up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the Fredonia Guitar Ensemble on tour in Nürnberg, Germany; the Brass Ensemble on tour in Delmar, New York. In background: the College Symphony Orchestra plays to a sold-out King Concert Hall in the Rockefeller Arts Center during the Yo-Yo Ma Scholarship Benefit Gala.

A Madrigal Feast

On Friday, December 7, 2012, the School of Music will present the first annual Madrigal Feast featuring the Fredonia Chamber Choir under the direction of Gerald Gray complemented by a variety of chamber ensembles of brass, woodwinds and strings. With the musicians in full Renaissance costume, the event will be held in the newly renovated Williams Center, which will have been transformed for the evening for a sumptuous holiday feast for all the senses.

Each course of unique, period-inspired dinner will be heralded with a traditional song, and as the meal progresses a play will develop with the King, Queen, Prince and Princess. The role of Court Jester will be played by Professor James Ivey. Audience participation is encouraged! A madrigal dinner traditionally includes the well-known *Boar's Head Carol* and *The Wassail Song*, and the audience will get these favorites and much, much more. As the memorable evening unfolds, a variety of entertaining works will be heard coming from the performance stage, roving musicians, and surprising locations throughout the room, and ranging from clever, bawdy Renaissance madrigals and songs to the best-loved Christmas carols.

Tickets for the Madrigal Feast will go on sale this fall. Watch our weekly eNews for details.



Dawn Upshaw and Gilbert Kalish Residency, Spring 2013

Renowned soprano Dawn Upshaw and pianist Gilbert Kalish will be coming to Fredonia for a week-long residency at the School of Music next spring, culminating in a concert in Rosch Recital Hall on Saturday, April 13, 2013. Tickets for this event will go on sale in September.

Dawn Upshaw has achieved worldwide celebrity as a singer of opera and concert repertoire. Her ability to reach to the heart of music and text has earned her the devotion of an exceptionally diverse audience and the awards and distinctions accorded only the most distinguished of artists. In 2007, she was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation, the first vocal artist to be awarded the five-year "genius" prize, and in 2008 she was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Her commitment to the communicative power of music has made her a favored partner of many leading musicians, including Richard Goode, the Kronos Quartet, James Levine and Esa-Pekka Salonen. From Carnegie Hall to large and small venues throughout the world she regularly presents specially designed programs composed of lieder, unusual contemporary works in many languages, folk, and popular music.

A four-time Grammy Award winner, Dawn Upshaw is featured on more than 50 recordings, including the million-selling Symphony No. 3 by Henryk Gorecki.

Gilbert Kalish is one of Upshaw's favorite collaborators and has appeared with her on tour and on many acclaimed recordings. He is head of performance activities at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and was pianist for the Boston Symphony Chamber Players from 1969 to 1998.

Both Upshaw and Kalish are renowned for their master classes. Their residency at Fredonia is made possible by a generous gift from Stanley Star.



"Notes from Mason" is published by the School of Music once a year. We welcome your suggestions and submissions of articles, alumni news updates, and photos. Please email information to Lori Deemer, lori.deemer@fredonia.edu, or send by mail to: Notes from Mason, School of Music-Mason Hall, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY 14063.

New Faculty



Dmitri Novgorodsky, piano

Dmitri Novgorodsky will be joining the School of Music as an Assistant Professor of Piano in Fall, 2012. Born to a musical family in Odessa, Ukraine, he began to play the piano at age five and by the age of 16 won the First Prize at the Kazakhstan National Piano Competition, and later the Gold Medal of the National Festival of the Arts.

After graduating from the studio of Professor Victor Merzhanov at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with high honors, Dr. Novgorodsky immigrated to Israel in 1991. In 1992, he was offered a full scholarship for graduate studies with Professor Boris Berman at Yale University, where he earned Master of Music, Master of Musical Arts and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees.

Dmitri Novgorodsky has appeared in concert in Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Israel, France, Austria, Canada, Turkey, Taiwan and the United States. His appearances as recitalist and concerto soloist have met with considerable critical acclaim.

Dr. Novgorodsky comes to Fredonia with a record of successful teaching experience. He has been on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, Lawrence University, and the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. His students have been admitted into The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, San Francisco Conservatory and many others.

Thoughts upon Retirement

by Laurel Rivers

I have been on the staff of the School of Music for 25 years, first as an assistant piano technician, and since 1995 as Head Piano Technician. I have loved Fredonia from the first moment I came here. I had come all the way from my home on Long Island for freshman orientation. That was in 1969. I marveled at how rural the area was. After graduation I decided to stay here rather than return "home" to Bayport. I had a new home.

For many years, I worked at the local bookstore in "The Plaza." I developed friendships, took woodworking classes and had many good times. Ten years out of school, though, I needed a real career. In 1983, at the Piano Tuning School at Chautauqua Institution, I found my niche. After graduation from that program I became an apprentice at the Steinway dealership in Jamestown. I missed Fredonia, so I came to the School of Music office and submitted a resume for a job that didn't exist – just in case. I couldn't believe my good fortune when I was asked to come for an interview. How did 25 years go by so quickly? From a program with around 350 students then to over 600 today, Fredonia has been like a trip on a beautiful and strong river. So many students have come and gone on to successful careers. They have filled my life with their energy and enthusiasm. Still, my body has been asking me to slow down, so while the river goes on, I need sometimes to find an eddy near its bank. I decided to cut back to a half-time position, and Graham Howes, who had been my assistant for five years, won the position as Head Piano Technician. Mr. Howes comes to us as a Steinway-trained and experienced technician, and I am gratified to see him shoulder the weight of the job so easily. He is the kind of dedicated and hard working individual that the job demands. I know he, too, will thrive on this amazing river.



Our Ensembles Hit the Road

In March 2012, the School of Music's ensembles went out on tour in a manner more organized than perhaps ever before.

The plan emanated from an Alumni Leadership Conference in 2010 at which alumni, faculty and supporters met to talk about how to develop greater national reputation and exposure for Fredonia's School of Music. From the hundreds of ideas that came out of those sessions, ensemble touring surfaced as a principal theme. The Fredonia College Foundation started a fund to support it, and the music faculty followed up with a plan that would allow all areas of performance to have equal opportunity for exposure. We decided that all touring should serve any combination of three main purposes: to attract and recruit students; to expand the reputation of our music programs; and to give our

students an enriching experience. We agreed that the best touring is designed to do all three.

The plan that evolved calls for voice, strings and winds/percussion to tour every year. Distinct regions were defined: downstate, upstate, and nearby areas of Pennsylvania and Ohio. By rotating the ensembles every year, the breadth of the school would reach all regions, and each year at least one of our large ensembles would be able to travel. Additional tours would also be possible, based on opportunity and funding.

In March 2012, the Chamber Choir under the direction of Gerald Gray visited Freeport, Liberty and New York University. The Brass Choir performed in Rochester, Niskayuna, Schenectady and Albany. The Percussion Ensemble traveled to Pittsburgh. The Guitar Quartet went overseas for a tour that took them to Burtghann, Germany, and to Colmar, Ludres, and Nancy, France.

For March 2013, plans are underway to take the Chamber Choir toward Cleveland, the woodwind chamber ensembles to New York City, and the Chamber Orchestra toward Albany. In March 2014, another three groups will travel, including the Wind Ensemble.

Touring is an expensive activity, but we all know that it assists us in reaching goals we have for the students and for our communities. Please consider helping us with this initiative by giving generously to the Ensemble Touring Fund. Learn more at: www.fredonia.edu/music/give









yo-yo ma Transports and Transforms us

by Karl Boelter, Director, School of Music On December 7 and 8, 2011, SUNY Fredonia was transported to a place it has rarely been. We are still there, perhaps never to return.

For a few years, I had wanted to secure someone who could make a big difference for the School of Music and for all of Fredonia. When I discovered that Yo-Yo Ma had a date on which he could be available to us, I contacted President Dennis L. Hefner, who was surprised and excited about the possibility. Funding to support the project was made available from the Williams Visiting Scholar and Artist Endowment of the Fredonia College Foundation. The arrangements fell easily in place once the artist expressed how pleased he would be to come here, especially if it meant he could make music with our fine students.

So to our giddy amazement, the famed cellist came to rehearse, perform and interact with us in a multi-day gala event. On Wednesday, December 7, he gave a most generous master class—more

than two and a half hours—in which he worked with Paul Swensen, cello (senior, performance) and Mi Kyung Kim, piano (senior, performance); a student chamber ensemble playing the Schumann Piano Quintet—Lina Horwitz, violin (junior, performance); Rachel Conklin, violin (freshman, performance); Max Denies, viola (freshman, biology); Christina Hart, cello (senior, performance); and Allison Peden, piano (senior, performance)—and the whole cello studio performing two short works by Pablo Casals. On Thursday, the School of Music hosted the gala dinner, concert with the College Symphony Orchestra and a reception with the artist. The orchestra program included Johann Strauss's Overture to *Die Fledermaus* and Edward Elgar's *Enigma* Variations. Yo-Yo Ma was on stage with the orchestra after intermission performing Dvorak's *Cello Concerto*.

The experience enchanted everyone. All events over the two days were sold out, and the success of the event was a testament to a campus working extremely well together to make a complicated process go smoothly. The weather even cooperated: in the mid 40s, dry, calm and a clear sky with a full moon.

The event was our fourth annual Scholarship Benefit Concert. The series has now raised more than \$38,000 for the music endowment.



Master class: Schumann Piano Quintet



With Karl Boelter

From the Faculty and Campus

I was beyond thrilled. I had met Yo-Yo Ma a few times over the years but this Fredonia experience topped all of those. I could never have believed that after meeting him for the first time as a teenager, I would then have the joy of placing my own students in front of him for coaching and performance. He is more than a great cellist, or great musician; he is an inspiring human who spreads among others his humor and his kind and caring nature.

-Natasha Farny, Associate Professor of Cello



With Natasha Farny

When I saw Yo-Yo Ma on stage with Fredonia students, I was moved not only by his exquisite playing but also by his genuine interest in hearing the students' music. He seemed rapt in listening, beaming as they played difficult sections with clarity and grace. He gave us all the gift of seeing someone who was happy to be in that moment: creating music with students and treating them as talented performers in their own right. When he returned for an encore and allowed the students to guide his choices, he was honoring them as musicians and inviting them to share his spotlight. This generosity of spirit and openness to the beauty of art—whatever its source created a deep impression on me about humility, true greatness, and the joy of being part of student learning and performance. I will never forget it.

-Virginia Horvath, Vice President for Academic Affairs; incoming 13th President of SUNY Fredonia

Yo-Yo Ma reminded me of the great joy there is in making beautiful music. This joy is so precious it is well worth all of the effort and dedication required. He truly passed this on and I want to keep passing it on as best I can.

—Harry Jacobson, Associate Professor of Contrabass; Head of Strings Yo-Yo Ma is a very special human being—in many ways, enlightened. His sense of music, joy and humanity affected all of us deeply on stage. It was a milestone experience for both myself and the College Symphony Orchestra.

—David Rudge, Associate Professor; Director of Orchestral Activities; Conductor of the College Symphony Orchestra



With David Rudge

My 7-year old daughter, who thought he was "goofy" during the master class, was utterly transfixed during the performance. Watching her experience Yo-Yo Ma's incredible generosity of spirit and rapport with the music and musicians touched us forever.

—KimMarie Cole, Associate Professor of English

I believe that the presence of Yo-Yo Ma had a positive psychological effect on the campus community. Having someone of his stature among us made us feel good about ourselves. Moreover, it provided our music students with an experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. The concert was outstanding. What stood out for me was the fact that someone of his amazing talent was still able to connect on a personal level with the audience and with the performers up on stage.

—Jack Croxton, Professor of Psychology; Director of the Office of Student Creative Activity and Research



At the master class

I've been focusing on composers over the past several years. But not today. Last night, I was thrown a curve ball of the greatest magnitude. Blindsided by a cellist performing Bach.

After the thunderous applause that brought soloist and conductor back from the wings several times, he came back out with his instrument, setting off a fury of shouts and whistles from our packed-to-the-gills auditorium. Once he took his place alone in front of the orchestra, he negotiated with the wide-eyed students surrounding him what he should play as an encore and settled on the Prelude from the sixth cello suite by Johann Sebastian Bach. We all settled back in our seats.

As he began to play, the Baroque strains written over a century and a half earlier than anything else on the program were startling to the ears. There was the realization that all of us in the room were being given a gift by one of the few people alive in concert music whose name is a household word around the world. Within a minute my eyes were shut, glasses in hand, and I did my best to keep my tears and silent sobbing spasms hidden from my neighbors. This was no simple "extra." It was an intimate, physical, visceral experience, and I shall remember it.

-Rob Deemer, Assistant Professor of Music Composition



It was a wonderful time to spend with my children, two that are students at SUNY Fredonia. Yo-Yo Ma is so kind and humble. It was a wonderful experience seeing him a week after the Music Awards in Washington, D.C. Working with the students will stay with them the rest of their lives!

-Douglas Dolan, Adjunct Instructor of Biology

This was an event that was not to be missed. Quite a coup on the School of Music's account. I got tickets for my whole family, including my 11-year old daughter. It was really a huge event for us. We even went out for a special dinner beforehand. Yo-Yo Ma was wonderful. What a gracious individual and giving person. He was well worth all of the energy, effort and cost involved in bringing him to campus. I also saw the master class the day before and that was even more fulfilling than the actual concert. He gave the students an experience that was priceless. Thanks to all of the people involved.

-Patricia Herkey, Communications Designer, Publications

From the first words at his much anticipated master class, Yo-Yo Ma transported all of us-students, faculty, admirers of all kindsto another world: a place of truth, clarity, joy and love. He let us all get a glimpse of music as the clear expression from the soul, untainted by ego or showmanship. He drew us all into his amazing world of unadulterated beauty, humanity and perfection.

Yo-Yo Ma was an awesome presence for the School of Music, for Fredonia, for all of us. It was truly exhilarating!

-Susan Royal, Professor of Flute

From the Community and Parents

Listening to Yo-Yo Ma lifts your spirit and takes you on a magic carpet ride and into a dream world. His performance was fulfilling, and he speaks to you with his captivating music. The performance left us enchanted.

—Eileen Star Batrouny, '67

I do not have words eloquent enough to describe the concert. It was the most moving musical experience I have had.

—Mary Rose Chasler

I think it was Yo-Yo Ma's humanity and his interaction with Fredonia's young musicians that made the evening so special. He is truly a citizen of the world because his music making transcends



Congratulations

the narrow bounds of concert stage and country. I think this is the most important lesson he taught to these young musicians during his two days at Fredonia. In brief, he taught these students that making music is about overcoming differences and making connections to other human beings.

—R. Denesha



Concert masters

How very exciting it was for the students, and the university!

For my son, this was a chance to be in the presence of a professional who evokes a musical spirit while remaining a down-to-earth and a genuine man. When the students chanted, "Cello Power" together, it was an unforgettable moment and one that will be with Joshua always. No words can describe what it is for a parent to share in that depth of joy.

-Catherine Russo Epstein

It was a great experience. We enjoyed everything, including the dinner in Mason. Being this close to a personality such as Mr. Ma was a thrill. Seeing his rapport with the musicians was wonderful. One of the best musical experiences of my life.

—Frank4338

When we heard about Yo-Yo Ma's impending visit, we signed up for the works: master class, performance, banquet, and reception. Though we live 400 miles away, we couldn't miss this opportunity of a lifetime for our son, a student in the School of Music. As the festivities unfolded, it became apparent that this engagement was not just about acquiring funds and prestige for SUNY Fredonia; it was ultimately about being enlightened by one of our foremost tribal chieftains of music, who inspired us to heighten our musical senses and to connect with each other through our diverse artistic heritage.

—Thomas Gallagher and Debora Chiu

I still can hardly believe that I had the opportunity to hear Yo-Yo Ma in Fredonia. What a fantastic experience to attend his performance and see his interaction with the students. I'm sure this will be a most memorable experience for the students, as well as for everyone in the audience. Even the students who sat around me in the audience seemed overwhelmed by his presence. It was truly a marvelous occasion. What a great honor for Fredonia that he was here. Just fantastic!

—Joanne Goetz

The most lasting impression of Yo-Yo Ma was his remarkable connection to the students. As the students were playing, he made eye contact with them, and as he prepared to begin his solo, he looked at the students as if to say, "You can play this music better than you have ever played before." And they did. When the concerto was finished, he was the first to say, "Well done."

—Andrea Andrews and Dale Mirth



Master class: cello studio

This proves that SUNY Fredonia School of Music has international recognition and acceptance. For the school to secure his performance is extraordinary!!! Really tremendous!!!

-Kurt Lindstrom

WOW! I am not a musician. Despite that handicap, I believe the master class was one of the most entertaining and enlightening events I have ever experienced. Watching a world-class musical genius peel away the depths of expression that are hidden to the common schlep like me was an unexpected display of awesome talent. I was disappointed when the two and a half hours came to an end but grateful for the opportunity to watch a man share his heavenly gifts. Thank you, Fredonia State.

—Nin Privitera

From the Students

Attending the Yo-Yo Ma concert at SUNY Fredonia was an unforgettable experience for me. It was wonderful to observe not only his musical style, but also his ease of engagement with the students. He appeared to have developed a great rapport with them thanks to his intuitive musicality and keen sense of humor. The sound he created was beautiful, expressive, and timeless. I feel very fortunate and quite frankly, lucky, to have won a ticket to this extraordinary event.

—Renee Bapst (graduate student, music therapy)

Hearing Yo-Yo Ma compliment the orchestra was fantastic. He didn't just acknowledge those in front, but everyone in the orchestra.

—Liam C. Bello (freshman, music education)

My feelings about having Yo-Yo Ma here were all feelings of pride and joy. I think it was amazing to see someone who is truly world famous and yet so humble. It was a real inspiration.

-Rebekah E. Brown (senior, BA music)

Having Yo-Yo Ma here for the community itself really showed that even though we aren't a big city, we can do great things. I enjoyed working with him. When he said to "transcend technique," I believe that applies to every single person, not just musicians. Go farther than what you usually do or believe because you have the ability to achieve anything.

—Alexandrea F. Di Vito (sophomore, music education)

I feel extremely privileged to have participated in the series of events during Yo-Yo Ma's visit to our SUNY Fredonia campus. As a student College Ambassador I helped to greet attendees, usher attendees from Mason Hall to their seats in King Concert Hall, as well as help the event coordinators facilitate the pre-concert dinner and reception following the performance.

Watching him work with the performers on stage during the master class was a lesson for all of us in the audience as well. His pure talent, humility, quick humor and communication with the audience makes him an extraordinary musician of his own class.

-Kathleen Grace Fiori (senior, musical theatre)

Having Yo-Yo Ma at Fredonia reaffirmed my need to spend the rest of my life making music. He helped me to connect with people while playing and to enjoy music for exactly what it is.

—Shannon A. Hara (senior, music education)



With Paul Swensen

Having Yo-Yo Ma here at Fredonia not only showed me what a great school this is, but opened my eyes to the opportunities that I will have because I chose Fredonia to study the art of music. Seeing Yo-Yo Ma, the famous cellist, stand in King Concert Hall and help students, just like me, with their pieces allowed me to see not only the professional performer side of Yo-Yo Ma, but his personality and educator sides. This experience is one that I will never forget. Thank you, Fredonia!

—Casey Leibesberger (freshman, music education)

I have been a violinist for about 12 years now. I have always admired Yo-Yo Ma, and when I heard that he was coming to Fredonia, I knew immediately that I would be going, no matter the cost. Throughout his performance I was awe-struck.

—Kari McKinney (non music major)

Yo-Yo Ma coming here was a once in a lifetime experience that I will be able to tell my grandchildren about one day. Everything he said I have tried to incorporate into my playing, and he seems to have had an impact on my studio teacher's teaching as well. I will always remember that week of my life, from when I saw him walking to King Concert Hall, to getting coached in the master class, to the final notes of his Dvorak concerto that he played. It was just a fantastic experience.

—Craig Mehler (junior, music education)

Seeing Yo-Yo Ma at Fredonia was truly amazing. His passion and love for music infected everyone in King Concert Hall at both the master class and the concert. It changed my life and the way that I listen and perform music. Truly spectacular and life changing.

—Andrew Milne (sophomore, music education)

Yo-Yo Ma is an inspiration to all musicians. Through his remarkable cello playing, uplifting spirit, and witty sense of humor, the College Symphony Orchestra was able to expand its talents and create a truly meaningful experience for everyone involved. During only a two-day period, he created an atmosphere of such joy and compassion that will remain in our hearts as performers forever. Through his love and devotion to music, the people involved were truly touched. I know I was.

—Mary E. Porcaro (sophomore, music education)

Yo-Yo Ma showed me the potential of hard work and perseverance. He's such an inspiration, and his down to earth personality made the experience a memorable one. Overall, it was the opportunity of a lifetime and I learned so much just from being around him.

—Giovanna Ruggiero (sophomore, music education)

Having the opportunity to perform the Dvorak Cello Concerto with Yo-Yo Ma was an amazing experience. He was kind to the orchestra, soft-spoken, and liked to make jokes. Despite his incredible amount of fame, he seemed so proud to be playing with our college orchestra, as if there was no place he would have rather been. The most important thing that I realized through playing with him is that music, especially in a performance setting, isn't about playing all of the right notes. A successful performer can hold the audience's attention, make them frantically wonder what is about to come next, and then comfort them when the phrase concludes. The audience members must feel a real sense of tension and release throughout the entire performance. The way Yo-Yo Ma performed the concerto, the way his face displayed all of the passion or angst that he felt in the music, and the way he continuously looked back at the players in the orchestra who shared his musical lines, created this strong sense of connection, not only between himself and the members of the orchestra, but also between himself and the audience. After this performance it really hit me: Music is about feeling. Not only what the performer is feeling, but also how the performer communicates his or her emotions both through

In Remembrance

Homer E. Garretson, age 91, of Dunkirk, died peacefully at home on March 21, 2012. He was born in 1920 in Sioux City, lowa to Samuel A. and Lela Garretson. He graduated from Morningside College, Sioux City, lowa, in 1942, before serving in World War II as a naval officer on destroyers in the Pacific. His job involved radar, spotting kamakazi before they hit the ship.

After the war, he resumed his music studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, graduating with a master's degree in Violin Performance in 1948. After teaching violin at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois for seven years, he returned to school at the University of Illinois in Champagne/Urbana to earn a doctorate in music education in 1961. He remained in his next job at SUNY Fredonia until his retirement in 1988.

He spent two sabbatical years in Vienna, Austria, and London, England, respectively, studying the violin. His teachers included Alex Schneider of the Budapest String Quartet, Kato Havas in London, and Edouard Melkus of the Vienna Academy of Music. musical gesture and physical response, sharing his or her feelings with the audience and allowing them to feel the same. This is what makes a successful performance so captivating.

—Amy M. Selkirk (sophomore, music education)

Having Yo-Yo Ma at Fredonia was an amazing opportunity for everyone involved! It was remarkable and inspiring to see someone in the professional world of music that was so down to earth and willing to help and encourage students, faculty, and community members. I left the master class and concert with a new insight as to what musicianship is all about and inspired to be a better musician. Yo-Yo Ma showed us, as aspiring musicians, what the true embodiment of musicianship and passion is all about.

-Kayla Walruth (senior, music education)



Music was the great focal point of his life, both private and public, and teaching the violin occupied almost all of his time in his teaching career. He was also the concertmaster of both the Rockford, Illinois orchestra and the Erie, Pennsylvania orchestra under Mr. Sample. He also played in the Melos Piano Trio.

Donations in Homer's memory may be made through the Fredonia

College Foundation to the Dr. Homer Garretson and Dr. Louis Richardson String Scholarship (272 Central Avenue, Fredonia, NY 14063), the 1891 Fredonia Opera House (9 Church St., P.O. Box 384, Fredonia, NY, 14063), to Hospice of Chautauqua County (20 Fairmont Avenue, Lakewood, NY 14750), or to Chautauqua Office for the Aging (Hall Clothier Building, 7 North Erie Street, Mayville, NY 14757).



Faculty News & Highlights



Christian Bernhard (Music Education) presented research at state, regional and national

conferences, and continued serving on the editorial board for the Journal of Music Teacher Education. Dr. Bernhard was also active in the local music education community, conducting the Orleans All-County concert band and adjudicating for numerous state and county solo festivals.



James Davis' (Musicology) book was released in January, "Bully for the Band!" The Civil War Letters and

Diary of Four Brothers in the 10th Vermont Infantry Band (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2012). Davis' book on music history pedagogy will be coming out later this year. Davis was invited to speak on Civil War music at Canisius College in September, and presented papers at the chapter meeting of the American Musicology Society and at the National Meeting of the Popular Culture Association.



Rob Deemer (Composition) has had several works performed and premiered across the country over the

past year; notable performers and ensembles include violinists Cornelius Dufallo and David Colwell, flutist Lindsay Goodman, Buffalo Chamber Players, Raschèr Saxophone Quartet, and the American Contemporary Music Ensemble, among others. His works were included on recordings by the Washington Trombone Ensemble and SUNY Fredonia faculty member Andrew Seigel. Deemer's writings about composers and their place in our society were published by the New York Times and in a weekly column on NewMusicBox.org. He presented a clinic on learning composition through arranging at the 2011 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Winter Conference and was named a founding member of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Composition Society, with whom he will be presenting at this year's NAfME Music Education Week in Baltimore. This summer he will be returning for his second year as a composition faculty member at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp.



Natasha Farny (Cello) taught at The Liszt School of Music (Weimar, Germany) in May, part of an ongoing exchange

with their school that also brought Weimar cello professor Tim Stolzenburg to Fredonia last December. Farny was awarded an Encore Grant from the American Composers Forum, and performed a new cello duet with her sister, Evelyn, by composer Caroline Mallonee Huebner. Last summer, Farny taught and performed at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival (TN) and the Affetti Music Festival (AK).





Joe Dan Harper (Voice) and Anne Kissel Harper (Collaborative Piano) completed a multiconcert presentation of Benjamin Britten's song cycles for tenor. Mr. Harper also performed as a soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The

concert, a tribute to famed soprano Phyllis Curtin, featured Ralph Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music.



Paula Holcomb (Conducting, Wind Ensemble) presented conducting symposiums and clinics for 18 days in

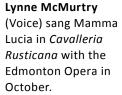
Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Shenzhen. In addition, Holcomb presented a session at the annual MidWest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, for which she also served as Chair. She serves as Vice President of the Conductors Guild and on the executive board and conducting workshop committee. Holcomb conducted the Missouri Intercollegiate Honor Band, served as clinician for the **Optimist Band Festival (Regina,** Saskachewan), and adjudicated MusicFest Canada. In addition, she served as guest conductor of the Arlington High School Band Festival and Zone 9 NYSSMA All-State in New York.



Michael Markham (Musicology) recently had a book chapter published entitled, "Caccini's Stages: Identity and

Performance Space in the latecinquecento court," in *The Music Room in Early Modern France and Italy: Sound, Space, and Object,* eds. Deborah Howard and Laura Moretti (Oxford University Press, 2012).







Paul Murphy's (Music Theory) co-authored text, The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills, 2nd

ed. was published by W.W. Norton last fall. With Jill Reese, H. Christian Bernhard, and Kathryn Grattan, he presented, "Improvisation and the University Music Curriculum: Preparing Pre-service Teachers for the Future." at the 33rd regional conference of the College Music Society, hosted by SUNY Fredonia's School of Music in March. In May, Dr. Murphy travelled to the University of Granada, Spain, to serve as invited external reviewer for the doctoral dissertation defense of Cristóbal García Gallardo: "El Tratamiento de la Sintaxis Armónica en los Principales Tratados Españoles . . ." He is currently completing an article on movement theorist Rudolf Laban and the music educator Émile Jaques-Dalcroze for the fall (2012) issue of The American Dalcroze Journal.



Julie Newell (Voice, Opera) travelled to Italy in September to teach master classes on American Song Literature at the

Conservatorio di Stato "Luisa "D"Annunizio" in Pescara, Italy. She was a guest of Italian soprano Stefania Donzelli. In April, Ms. Donzelli, together with Italian pianist Vincenzo De Blasis, travelled to Fredonia to join Ms. Newell in a recital of works celebrating Pauline Viardot. In August 2011, Julie became the Executive Director of the Western New York Chamber Orchestra, the professional ensemble-in-residence at SUNY Fredonia.



James Piorkowski's (Classical Guitar) composition for cello and guitar, *El Camino a Oviedo* (dedicated to Natasha Farny), and

the solo guitar work, *Once was lost...,* were published last fall by Clear Note Publications.



Jill Reese (Music Education) presented research sessions and practical and bestpractice sessions at international,

national, regional and state conferences. Research presentation topics included professional development communities for music teacher educators, music acquisition in early childhood and teacher-student rock bands. Practical and best-practice session topics included professional development communities for early career teachers, use of Skype during undergraduate methods courses, improvisation in the undergraduate music education curriculum and creative listening strategies in elementary general music. Reese also presented at Michigan State University and at the Chautauqua **County Music Educators Association** In-Service Day. Her research paper titled "Adult Identification of Young Children's Music Behaviors" is currently in review. She will attend the Smithsonian **Folkways Certification Program** (University of Washington) this summer.



Susan Royal (Flute) conducted Flutasia at the Erie County Music Teachers Association Convention (Buffalo) in January, and

conducted a flute ensemble session at the Buffalo Flute Club's *Flute Fair* in April. Royal gave numerous performances as a member of the Erie Philharmonic, Western New York Chamber Orchestra, and the Fredonia Wind Quintet, which was in residence for three days at Frontier High School (Hamburg).



Andrew Seigel (Clarinet) performed throughout the region as a member of the Erie Philharmonic and Western New York Chamber Orchestra. He also performed on recitals at the College Music Society's Northeast Regional Conference and at the University of Buffalo, and as a member of the Fredonia Wind Quintet. His CD recording of music for clarinet and organ, *Aurora*, was released in January, featuring SUNY Fredonia professor Ji Hyun Woo on organ.



James Welch (Staff Accompanist, Class Piano) will perform a series of piano recitals along with Fredonia alumna, Anne Denis,

in the Portland, Oregon area over the summer, followed by performances at the Music at Ambialet summer festival in southern France. Welch will also attend the Accademia Europea Dell'Opera program to study Opera and Collaborative piano in Milan, Italy.



Ji Hyun Woo's (Music Theory) composition Buffalo and Me for Flute and Chang-Ko was performed at the College Music

Society International Conference (Seoul and Kyeong-Ju, Korea) last summer. Woo earned her master's degree in music performance for organ from the University at Buffalo in February 2012. In December, the new CD, *Aurora* for clarinet and organ was released featuring Woo and Fredonia clarinet professor, Andrew Seigel.

Alumni News

1950s

Harold Ressel, '51, (music ed.) has been married for 60 years, and has three children and four grandchildren. He plays chamber music at various times on the violin, viola, or cello, and taught instrumental music for 38 years.

John Aceti, '58, (elem. ed.) from Kerrville, Texas, and Lawrence and Virginia (Knox) Ramsden, '60, (music ed.) from Islip (N.Y.), met on a 1,000-mile Danube River cruise through seven Central and Eastern European countries from Austria to Romania during the summer of 2010.

Robert Willover, '58, (music ed.) recently performed an original program at a yacht club in Fort Myers (Fla.) for Edison and Ford Winter Estates volunteers. Robert is Sanibel church organist at the First Church of Christ Scientist and a docent at the estates.

1960s

Lee H. Pritchard, '62, (music ed.) represented President Dennis L. Hefner and SUNY Fredonia at the inauguration of SUNY New Paltz's eighth president, Dr. Donald P. Christian, in April.

Martin Zavadil, '65, (music ed.) continues to stay active as a conductor, performer and adjudicator.

Elaine (Zielinski) Zielin, '66, (music ed.) has been working as a letter carrier for the U.S.P.S. for 24 years. She recently spent two years (on days off) singing standards with jazz

piano at nursing and retirement homes and learning to play the harmonica.

Dr. Joseph Casimino, '67, (music ed.) retired as music chairman for Lancaster schools, is former president of the Erie County (N.Y.) Music Educators Association, a former member of Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra board, and retired as principal of St. Mary's High School in Lancaster (N.Y.).

1970s

Gary Dailey, '72, (music ed.) after 40-plus years of teaching music in the Baltimore/ Washington, D.C., area and playing "on the road" with Buddy Rich, Maynard Ferguson and the U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors, has retired to Charlotte (N.C.) with extended family.

Gerald Grahame, '72, (music ed.) was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Music at Broome Community College (BBC). He directs College Choir, BCC Chamber Singers and teaches other vocal music courses.

Tom Rasely, '73, (music ed.) celebrated the world premiere of his choral collection, *The Best of Times,* by the Greg Kunde Chorale in Pittsford (N.Y.) last October. The piece is seven short songs for soprano, alto, tenor and bass, and piano, based on texts from the writings of Charles Dickens. For more information, visit *www.rasely.com.*

Dr. Lawrence Gwozdz, '75, (music ed.) played his saxophone in a concert at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and led a master class for students. He has also performed in major cities in Asia, Europe and North America. James Pace, '75, (music ed.) published the book, *West Seneca*, about the history of West Seneca (N.Y.). It is available through Arcadia Publishing at *www.arcadiapublishing.com* and at national bookstores.

Dr. Deborah (Anders) Silverman, '76, '79, (music ed., English) received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Buffalo State College, where she serves as Associate Chair of its Communication Department.

Roland Martin, '77, (music ed.) has been serving as the interim director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus.

Alan Siebert, '77, (music ed.) has been elected vice president of the International Trumpet Guild (ITG) and will hold the office of president in 2013-2015.

The Chautauqua County Music Teachers Association held its annual spring music festival at Chautauqua Institution in 2011 and the traditional finale to the concert, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, was conducted by **Pauline (Kenney) Emilson, '77** (music ed.). The All-County Elementary Chorus was conducted by **Cindy (Gould) Mayo, '74**, (music ed.) and accompanied by **Dan Bromsted, '77** (music ed.). **Daniel Reisdorf, '05**, (music ed.) directed the All-County Junior High Chorus; **Philip Farugia, '98**, (music ed.) conducted the All-County Senior High School Chorus, and **John Maguda, '72**, (music ed.) directed the All-County Senior High Band.

Cheryl (Mancini) Drake, '78, (music ed.) was selected to receive the 2010 Outstanding Music Educator Award in the Outstanding Band Director category from the Rochester (N.Y.) Philharmonic Orchestra Musician's Educator Awards Committee. She is an instrumental music teacher in the Canandaigua (N.Y.) City School District.

1980s

Howard Klayman, '85, (music ed.) was appointed as Federal Account Manager for Actiance in the firm's Washington, D.C., regional office.

Jeff Nelson, '85, (sound rec. technology) played bass trombone on recent recordings with composer/arranger Michel Legrand (*Noel! Noel!! Noel!!*) and with jazz legend Jimmy Heath (*Live at the Blue Note*). He is currently in the orchestra for Broadway's *Sister Act* and can once again be heard this season on the theme music for NBC's *Sunday Night Football*.

Fred Dunn, '86, (music ed.) directed Haydn's *Little Organ Mass* with his select choir.

1990s

Michael Szczublewski, '90, (music/perf.) was the director of the 2011-2012 Chautauqua County Music Teachers' Association Winter Festival Jazz Ensemble.

Donna Benstead, '94, (music ed.) was recently inducted into *Cambridge Who's Who* as a VIP member of the year, honored for innovation and dedication to music education.

Christine (Cramer) Merkel, '97, (music ed.) is the director of the Gates Chili High School Show Choir in the Rochester (N.Y.) area.

2000s

Ron Tongue, '00, (music ed.) released his first solo album, *If Only*. For more information, visit www.rahnmusic.com, *iTunes*, Amazon or cdbaby.com.

Jim Briggs III, '01, (sound rec. technology) is the mix engineer for Public Radio International's, "Selected Shorts," and WNYC NY Public Radio's, "Here's the Thing," hosted by Alec Baldwin. He also mixed the hour-long national documentary special, "Living 9/11," for WNYC and Public Radio Exchange (PRX), and was the sound and dialogue editor on the film, "The Greely Expedition," shown on the PBS history series, "The American Experience."

Jeffrey Bianchi, '02, (music perf.) performed classical guitar music at the first concert of the Kinna Chamber Concert Series at the Cultural Arts Center in Douglasville, (Ga.), and at the courtroom of Lawrence County in Moulton (Tenn.).

Jesse Archer, '03, (music ed.) conducted the 54-piece Senior High All-County Band at the All-County Concert sponsored by the Allegany County School Music Association. He teaches music theory at Portville (N.Y.) Central School.

Erik Reinhart, '03, (music ed.) has taken over choral activities at Churchville-Chili High School outside of Rochester (N.Y.). Previously, he taught ninth grade choir and guitar classes. He will also continue to teach high school guitar classes.

Adam Phillips, '04, (musical theatre) released his second album, *Songs of Old* (*A Christmas Album*). The album is available on *iTunes*, *Cdbaby.com*, and through *www.facebook*. *com/AdamPhillipsHymns*. **Dennis Repino, '04,** (music perf.) played in a guitar duo in a free concert for the Brockport (N.Y.) community's effort to raise funds for Water for South Sudan, a Rochester-based nonprofit organization helping the people of South Sudan. He currently teaches at Finger Lakes Community College.

Joseph Flaxman, '06, (music perf.) was a Young Artist at Des Moines Metro Opera during the summer of 2011 and this summer will perform in an opera festival, Lyrique-enmer, on Belle-Ile in France. In October, he will make his professional debut at Lincoln Center in Montemezzi's *La Nave*. He was the music director at Temple Beth Shalom for the Jewish high holidays, and continues to sing at Scarsdale Congregtional Church when in New York City. In May, he performed the role of The Man in the Mask in Bruce Saylor's Opera, *Major Molineaux*, at Queens College.



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Richard Blumenthal, piano David Hollenbeck, tuba Sharon Kitzis, flute Mi Kyung Kim, piano Michael Klein, guitar Michael Mendoza, guitar Stephanie Patterson, oboe Paul Swensen, cello

CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS Yong Zhang, piano

Makoto Winkler, baritone Alexander Davis, bassoon



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L to R: Guest artists Susanne Mentzer, Orlay Alonso, Helen Sung, Leigh Howard Stevens, Rick Stout and Elizabeth Camus