Inside this Issue

CONCERT CHORALE TOURS SPAIN
PANTHER MARCHING BAND PERFORMS IN IRELAND
STUDENTS AND FACULTY PRESENT BEETHOVEN’S NO. 9
Dear Friends,

I am very happy to share many of the great things going on in the UNI School of Music.

This past academic year was once again marked by some great events. We inaugurated a new collaborative series of concerts with the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Two concerts marked the anniversary of the end of World War I. The first, a performance by a faculty septet of Stravinsky’s full L’Histoire du soldat (1918) complete with narrators and dancers, and the second featured the UNI Varsity Glee Club and UNI Wind Ensemble in an “Armistice” concert. Completing the series and really putting an exclamation point on the entire year was a full performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with combined choirs of over 200 voices, four faculty soloists and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra performed to an audience of over 1,200.

We celebrated the retirement of our longtime and greatly beloved flute faculty member, Dr. Angeliea Floyd. Angeliea’s 33-year career at UNI has produced an incredible number of fine flutists and music educators as well as no small number of memorable parties! There was a great celebration with friends and alumni to mark the event that is described in this publication. Dr. Nancy Cobb also retired this year. She spent only two years in the School of Music after she retired from the UNI Associate Provost position, but in those two years, she endeared herself to faculty and students alike. She is a tremendous composer and top-notch music educator and will be greatly missed, though you’ll be hearing more about her and her new composition in the near future!

I am very excited for the upcoming year! Seven new colleagues will join us. They represent an amazing pool of talent, energy and diverse experiences. This is a remarkable influx and sure to have a tremendous impact. You can read more about this incredible group herein.

The future looks bright for the UNI School of Music, thanks to the great students, staff and faculty that make up our school, but it is also due to the continued support of friends like you.

Thank you for your continued support!

All the best!

Jeffrey Funderburk
Director & Professor

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UNI’s Panther Marching Band (PMB) was invited to perform in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Dublin, and the City of Limerick’s St. Patrick’s Parade. On March 17, the PMB marched through the streets of Dublin in front of an estimated audience of 750,000 people and millions more watching on television. Additionally, the PMB was featured on newscasts on Irish television throughout the weekend. On March 18, the PMB traveled to Limerick where it was an anchor group in the St. Patrick’s Parade there, performing for tens of thousands of onlookers despite some rough weather. The PMB was warmly and enthusiastically greeted by both audiences—both of which had several UNI alumni peppered throughout, and represented UNI and the United States very well. “Everywhere the PMB went, people would see the UNI logo and stop to talk about how much they enjoyed the PMB in the parades,” PMB director Justin Mertz noted, “The students were treated like celebrities for several days after their performances.”

For the rest of the week, the students in the PMB were immersed in Irish culture, traveling the countryside and experiencing Ireland’s many natural and historical attractions. On the night before departure back to the United States, the PMB students participated in a night of music and merrymaking at the Merry Ploughboy, a famous venue for folk and traditional Irish music. Mertz stated, “It was a memorable trip that continued the PMB’s tradition of distinctive and high-level international performance.”

Editor’s note: thank you to Justin Mertz for his contribution to this article.

The UNI Concert Chorale, under the direction of John Wiles, traveled over spring break to perform a series of concerts in Wisconsin before their international departure to Spain. The group performed at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, Badger High School and in collaboration with the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra from March 14-16, then headed for Spain with performances at the Andalucia Music Festival in Granada, Parroquia de Santa Maria la Mayor in Ecija, and the Auditorio de Tomares outside of Seville. Walking tours and visits to historical sites peppered the group’s itinerary between performances, before their trip home on March 23.

Jeffrey Funderburk, Director of the UNI School of Music, stated, “In our ongoing efforts to help students have an international experience as part of their college training, the UNI School of Music was pleased to support the Concert Chorale on their tour this year. Students consistently report that such international experiences are life altering and have tremendous impact on their view of the world. Cooperating with friends and colleagues while sharing the gift of music in an international setting is an amazing experience and one that we are thrilled to offer to students at the University of Northern Iowa.”

Editor’s note: thank you to Jeffrey Funderburk for his contribution to this article.
2018 marked the 130th Anniversary of the Women’s Chorus, the oldest ensemble on UNI’s campus. The Women’s Chorus was founded by Julia Curtiss in 1888, when the institution was called the Iowa Normal School, and the ensemble was originally named the Cecelian Glee Club. Ms. Curtiss went on to create several other choral ensembles on campus, including a second women’s glee club, and was instrumental in starting the program that we now call the UNI School of Music.

The celebration for this special anniversary began in March 2018 when the current UNI Women’s Chorus traveled to Germany on their second international tour, and culminated with an on-campus concert and celebration weekend in October. Alumni returned to campus to sing together again, and to celebrate the rich tradition and heritage of the Women’s Chorus. Past members included those who graduated as far back as 1954, and as recent as last year.

“It was an incredible weekend of sharing, reminiscing, singing, and so much joy!” Women’s Chorus conductor Amy Kotsonis remarked, “The current Women’s Chorus had the opportunity to sing with and learn from alumni, and hear more about what the chorus was like at different points in history, including some fantastic photos contributed by alumni.” The October event was also the official start of the UNI Women’s Chorus Giving Society, which is a special fund that will help future generations of the chorus with tour funding, commissioning works, and other projects that support the ensemble.

The Women’s Chorus hopes to celebrate future anniversaries with alumni, and make the reunion a tradition every five years. The group also welcomes alumni back for the annual Women Sing event and other concerts throughout the concert season each year. Kotsonis noted, “We are really looking forward to having those responsible for helping to create our rich history be a part of our future as well.”

Editor’s note: thank you to Amy Kotsonis for her contribution to this article.

May 3-4 was a weekend of celebration for flute alumni and enthusiasts who cheered on faculty artist Angeleita Floyd in her final concert before retirement from UNI. The two-day celebration included an alumni and friends dinner, a Floyd’s Flute Family Feud game, sidewalk chalking at Russell Hall, and the final Floyd Flute Family Celebration concert. The concert served not only as a farewell to Floyd at UNI, but also as a fundraiser establishing the Floyd Flute Family Fund to benefit future music students at UNI.

Nearly 100 alumni and friends returned for the events, traveling from as far away as California, Louisiana, and New York, to alumni who have stayed right here in Cedar Falls. Alumni Amanda Barro reflected on Angeleita’s career, noting, “I am incredibly thankful for all of Angeleita’s mentorship, encouragement, and continuous support. She is more than a flute professor to all of us, and we are so lucky to have her in our lives. Every day, I find myself practicing and hearing her voice with words of encouragement and direction – teaching my own students and still learning from the way she would help us grow and feel confident as performers. Her impact has been everlasting!”

The final concert was followed by a celebratory reception at the local restaurant Montage where students and friends from Angeleita’s 33-year career at UNI celebrated her legacy and the culmination of a successful weekend of farewell events.

Editor’s note: thank you to Amanda Barro for her contribution to this article.
Editor’s note: thank you to Danny Galyen, John Wiles and Rebecca Burkhardt for their contributions to this article.
The UNI School of Music presented an evening of opera and orchestra performances with a dinner in between on Friday, November 2. Due Gala was a unique and engaging event including an opera gala concert with scenes ranging from Mozart to Bernstein, followed by a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening. A dinner in between on Friday, November 2.

Due Gala: Dinner and Two Shows!

In 2008, the university constructed a Hall of Fame Wall in Russell Hall to honor outstanding musicians, alumni or friends of the UNI School of Music. It was determined that the individuals chosen for the award would serve as important role models for future generations of UNI musicians. We have some outstanding honorees in this group, but found that inductees from 2008-2017 were in active roles at UNI in more recent decades. Musical training has been central to the University of Northern Iowa from its inception in 1866 as an orphanage and from the beginnings of the Iowa State Normal School in 1876. From even the earliest days of our institution, there were outstanding music educators who were making a difference throughout Iowa and on the national stage. That is a legacy that the UNI School of Music is very proud to celebrate.

2018’s Hall of Fame honorees were education-al innovators, and were integral in shaping the rich history of the music program at UNI. The School of Music was thrilled to introduce these remarkable educators at the September Scholarship Benefit Concert as we rededicated the Hall of Fame on its 10th anniversary as the UNI School of Music’s Curtiss-Fullerton Hall of Fame.

Charles A. Fullerton, our first honoree in 2018, began his long association with the School of Music at Iowa State Normal School, now UNI, in 1885 as an undergraduate and retired 50 years later as the head of the department.

Fullerton was born in Manchester, Hampshıre, October 11, 1861. His parents moved to Iowa when he was nine years old, settling near Nora Springs. He obtained his early education in Iowa public schools and attended Iowa State Teachers college, where he received a B. S. degree in music in 1890. He taught in rural schools and also served as principal of schools at Norway, Parkersburg, and Manson, Iowa, before he returned to his alma mater to begin his work in the music department in 1897. He later was awarded an honorary master’s degree by the Chicago Musical College and also took post-graduate work at the University of Chicago and Harvard University.

Charles Fullerton was prominent regionally and nationally having served as chairman of the music section of the National Education Association; president of the National Music Supervisor’s Conference; chairman of the public school section of the National Association of Music Teachers; president of the Society of Music Teachers of Iowa; and chairman of the music section of the Iowa State Teachers Association.

He is most famous for developing a method for teaching music in rural one-room school-houses that could be implemented by any teacher regardless of musical training. This method is called the Choir Plan. Using recording technology as a mode by which students could learn music revolutionized rural school education. As you might expect, not all teachers with appointments in one-room school-houses were equipped with the knowledge and skill to teach music. Even so, by 1933, many children were receiving a standardized music program in their schools because of Charles Fullerton. His work made it possible for an entire generation of children in Iowa to learn music.

Julia Curtiss began teaching piano at Iowa State Normal School in 1888 and retired in 1908 as the director of piano. She came to Iowa from the East Coast where she studied with several prominent pianists and received a special certificate from the New England Conservatory of Music. Her first year she founded the Cecilian Glee Club, a group that is known today as the Women’s Chorus. This ensemble has the distinction of being the oldest, continuously active choir in the university’s history.

Teaching piano and leading the Cecilian’s was not enough for Mrs. Curtiss. She went on to found and direct the Minneingers in 1895 (known as the I.S.N.S. Glee Club until 1932) in conjunction with Charles Fullerton in order to give the school’s men an outlet to sing, then founded and led the Euterpean Glee Club in 1895. The Euterpean became the first mix-voice singing ensemble at the university. Under Julia’s direction, these groups gave concerts and collaborated to stage light operas.

In 1908, the year she retired, the yearbook notes “so much is due for the musical side of our school” to Julia Curtiss. She taught piano to scores of students, judged piano competi-
tions even after her retirement, and essentially founded the School of Music’s choral program. Her significant and enduring legacy is found in the singing voices of our student’s today.

While Fullerton and Curtiss are with us now only in spirit, we are deeply grateful to them for their groundbreaking work and the strong foundation that they built for the UNI School of Music and music education in Iowa.

Editor’s note: thank you to Angela Pratesi for help in developing this article.
UNI Jazz Hosts:
Hot Tamale Louie

Fresh off the success of the 64th annual Tallcorn Jazz Festival and 88th Student Dimensions in Jazz Concerts featuring guest artist Carl Allen, UNI’s Director of Jazz Studies Christopher Merz served as host for an on-campus performance of “Hot Tamale Louie: The Story of Zarif Khan.” The event was held on Sunday, March 10 in the Gallagher Bluedorn.

At a time when immigration is much in the news, Professor John Rapson of the University of Iowa’s School of Music’s Jazz Studies Program has created a powerful multi-media performance about an early 20th-century immigrant whose story remains relevant today. “Hot Tamale Louie: The Story of Zarif Khan” was performed by Rapson and a cast of musicians. The Waterloo Human Rights Commission, the University of Northern Iowa and Humanities Iowa joined together to sponsor the performance, and to offer it for free to the public.

The story, based on a June 2016 New Yorker article by Pulitzer Prize winning author Kathryn Schulz, caught Rapson’s eye - and evokes Zarif Khan’s story, which was told in words, music, and visual projections. Visit jazzstudies.uni.edu to keep up with the calendar of events and special guest presentations like this one in 2019-20.

Editor’s note: thank you to John Rapson for his help with this article.

During the 2018-2019-year, the UNI Suzuki School continued with Suzuki individual and group lessons, Northern Iowa Junior and Youth Orchestras (NIJO and NIYO), the Cedar Falls Community Orchestra, and Verismo Chamber music. Outreach performances included ARTapalooza, College Hill Arts Festival, and a pre-concert lobby performance for the symphony concert. The School hosted its first Suzuki Fun Day and Multicultural Festival in March with group sessions, theory, composition, Kindermusik and a presentation of the many cultures the School’s families represented with food and table displays representing Colombia, Norway, India, China, North America and Denmark.

Orchestra tours in northeast Iowa included concerts by NIJO in Spillville, Calmar and Denver and by NIJD in Cedar Falls, Independence and Manchester. These annual concerts bring orchestra music to those school districts that do not offer orchestra. The year ended with the annual spring concert in May, as the School bid farewell to graduating high school seniors.

The UNI Community Music School continues to expand its musical offerings to the Cedar Valley community. In cooperation with the UNI Vocal department, Kelly Noltner joined the CMS staff, and now offers voice lessons to students twelve years and older. Kelly earned her M.M. in Vocal Performance from UNI in 2017 as well as an Artist Diploma Certificate in December of 2018. Kelly earned her B.M. degree at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) in 2015. Recently, Kelly performed the role of Jackie Onasis in Scenes from “Jackie O” with UNI Opera.

As part of our continued commitment to provide UNI students with mentored teaching experiences at the Community Music School, numerous students not only taught private and group lessons, but also worked with both large ensembles. Anniika Andrews, senior music education teacher, guest directed “Shooting Star” at the UNI Children’s Choir December concert. Music education major, Jason Anfinson, directed the UNI New Horizons Band antiphonal brass choir during the spring concert.

In partnership with the UNI Child Development Center, CMS teacher Jennifer LeGarde visited classrooms at the CDC, sharing a variety of music in the classroom.

Students learned about different sounds, how music can make you feel emotions, and got a chance to play the piano.

The UNI Spectrum Project, a music, movement, drama and art program for children with differing abilities, performed their spring concert “This Spectrum Life on April 7. This year included the second annual Spectrum Art Week exhibit of performer art. The program has grown to over 60 performers, assisted by over 100 student volunteers.

The UNI Spectrum Project is open to all children ages 5-19 and provides a performing arts experience that culminates in a show each April. Performers come from as far away as Iowa City to rehearse every Saturday, January through April.

Editor’s note: thank you to Cathy Craig, Heather Hamilton and Kevin Drue for their contributions to and help with this article.

Celebrating Success:
Music Outreach Programs at UNI

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Patrons   $300 to $499 (up to four complimentary tickets)
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September 27, 2019 will be a celebration and we hope that you can join us, or show your support for music scholarships at UNI by becoming a special donor!

The evening will be filled with exceptional performances by student and faculty musicians. Pre-concert music and our chocolate course will begin in the Gallagher Bluedorn at 6:45 p.m. and will feature UNI Children’s Choir singing from the Great Hall stage as chocolates are served in the lobby. The mainstage concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall and will include performances by the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Choirs, faculty artist Suzanne Hendrix-Case, mezzo-soprano, the UNI Women’s Chorus, faculty artist Randall Harlow, organ, “Saloon Music” by Bruce Broughton featuring Randy Grabowski, trumpet, with faculty and student musicians, and UNI Jazz Band One.

As always, the end of the concert is only the beginning of the festivities. Plan to stay after the mainstage event for excellent hors d’oeuvres and champagne in the lobby with music provided by Bob Dunn, guitar. Step into Davis Hall for a showcase celebrating Walt Whitman on the 200th anniversary of his birthday. Coordinated by faculty artists Jonathan Schwabe and Christopher Merz, this “Whitman Sampler” showcase will feature School of Music students and faculty.

Please join us for this exciting event and help to support student scholarships at UNI’s School of Music!

The Scholarship Benefit Concerts have been raising scholarship funds for exceptionally talented music students and students in need since 1982. In addition to the income from ticket sales for the concerts, we have developed a network of community, small business, corporate, and university-related donors. The extent of this support has been most gratifying to the students and faculty at UNI’s School of Music.

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- President’s Circle - $2,500 or more
- Dean’s Circle - $2,000 to $2,499
- Guarantors - $1,000 to $1,499
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To become a special donor and receive complimentary tickets, contact the School of Music office #72 Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center by calling (319) 273-3205. All seats for the benefit concert are reserved. The final data for adding names to the special donor section of the acknowledgement page of the benefit concert program is Friday, September 13, 2019. Individual tickets* may be purchased in person at the Gallagher Bluedorn box office, by calling (319) 273-4TIX or (877) 549-SHOW (7469) or by visiting us online at unitix.uni.edu. * all contributions and ticket costs for the Scholarship Benefit Concert are tax deductible less $10 for each person receiving champagne and hors d’oeuvres.

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The many honors and awards that our students have earned.

At our 2019 Spotlight Series Performance Competition Finals, Brenda Sevcik, organ, was named the 2019 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,000 Presser Scholarship. Brenda Sevcik is a junior double majoring in Music Education and Organ Performance. Brenda has been a member of the trumpet sections of the UNI Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Jazz Panthers, and the Panther Marching Band. Outside of music, you will often find Brenda running or eating copious amounts of chocolate. She enjoys working as an organist/pianist for area churches, and is an active member of St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center. Performing on the organ in Jebe Hall, and live streamed by video to the Great Hall audience, Performing on the organ in Jebe Hall, and live streamed by video to the Great Hall audience, Brenda was also the recipient of the evening’s People’s Choice Award.

Additional award winners include Abigail Moore, trombone, selected for the 2019 MTNA State School of Music Competition on October 28 at Westburg, and was named alternate at the MTNA regionals in January.

Thank you to Brenda Hackenmiller, Alison Allstatt and Lydia Richards for their help with and contributions to this article.

Congratulations to all of our award-winning and honor-earning students.

Isaac Smith, composer, was awarded the $1000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for Donovan Kluh’s performance of his composition “Sonata for Tuba and Piano.” Smith is a junior at UNI pursuing a BM in composition and theory. His instructors at UNI include Jonathan Schwab, Nancy Will-Cobb, and Rebecca Burkhardt. Outside of school, Smith also studies with Harvey Stillberger, and has taken lessons with Lisa Bost-Sandberg, Changguan Ao, and Michael Daugherty. Smith also pursues jazz piano, studying with Michael Cornell and writing, arranging, and performing with jazz ensembles on campus.

The evening of the Performance Competition Finals concert also served as an evening of recognition for newly inducted members of the Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society. Recognition is given to those students at the highest level of musical achievement and academic scholarship. This year’s inductees were Dakota Anderson, Adam Denner, Amelyn Enriquez, Anya Shorey, Isaac Smith, Alissa Onega, Nicole Lengemann, John Shea, Andrew Wiele, Kim Abayou, Joyce Beyer, Chris Copland, Tamara Druy, Tom Mortenson, and David Thompson. Kelsey Meinen was voted outstanding freshman, while Madeline Hartlep was voted outstanding sophomore.

In November 2018, Andrew Wiele was awarded the top honor at the UNI School of Music Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals. Wiele is a senior Instrumental Performance major at UNI. He is a member of all of the top instrumental ensembles at UNI as well as multiple ensembles outside of UNI. He has finished as a finalist in the 2017 UNI Presser Scholarship competition and a runner-up in the 2018 Fort Dodge Concerto Competition. As part of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Andrew has toured in Brazil in 2017. He plans to continue his studies at a graduate level.

Bethany Washington, violin, was the first runner up at the November event, while Donovan Kluh, tuba, was the second runner up. The “Audience Favorite” honor was shared by Wiele and violinist Abigail Moore.

The $2000 Charles and Marleeta Mathes- son Award was awarded to Andrew Floryanovich, saxophone. Floryanovich is currently a junior at UNI studying jazz and classical saxophone. Originally from Spokane, WA, he grew up in Tiffin, IA, and began playing piano at the age of six. He now plays in a variety of ensembles at UNI, including Jazz Band One, Wind Ensemble, and the Night Mayor Jazz Quintet. In his free time, he enjoys cooking and practicing his poker face.

The Angelico Saxophone Quartet, consisting of UNI music students Celina Kurtz, Andrea Verborg, Gage Schmidt, and Lexi Forstrom, won the MTNA State Chamber Winds competition on October 28 at Westburg, and was named alternate at the MTNA regionals in January.

School of Music Earns High Honors

With the long list of awards and honors that School of Music students earned this year, it may come as no surprise to learn that many of our students are part of the Honors program at UNI. The Honors program at UNI aims to offer a more challenging, rewarding and engaging experience to UNI students, through advanced coursework in liberal arts and other Honors curriculum as well as a final senior thesis/project. The School of Music is proud to congratulate our Honors program students and those who have earned a place on the Dean’s List or as a Presidential or Provost Scholar this year. Scholars are as follows:


Presidential Scholars: Sydney Atwood, Adam Denner, Madelaine Hartlep, Collin Krucke, Estefania Rivasco Corrales and Anya Shorey.

The School of Music would also like to congratulate the School of Music students who appeared on the fall 2018 and spring 2019 Dean’s List. To be included on the list, a student must have earned a grade point average of 3.3 or higher on a 4.0 scale, while taking at least 12 hours of graded work during the semester.

Congratulations to each of you on your excellent work!
Be our Guest:
A look back at our Visiting Artists

2018-19 was another fantastic year in the School of Music, filled with exceptional guest artists and clinicians visiting and sharing their talent and experience with School of Music students and faculty. Through hands-on master classes, thrilling performances, and interactive discussions, these inspiring guests and masters of music offered students a world of opportunity to find out why choosing music is truly a rewarding path.

**Fall 2018**
- Fernandos Deddos, euphonium
- Thomas Jostlein, horn
- Elizabeth Atkins, violin
- Edward Newman, piano
- Matthew Hoch, baritone
- Jorge Monforte, clarinet
- Karel Keldermans, carillon
- Ben Pierce, tuba and euphonium
- Beard-Wolff Duo
- U.S. Marine Band “The President’s Own”
- Nicholas May, saxophone

**Spring 2019**
- Bob Washut Emeritus
- Daniel Velasco, flute
- Julia Nolan, saxophone
- Volante Winds
- Ivan Treviso, percussion
- Paul Carlson, tuba
- Gorzeppe-David Piano/Violin Duo
- Hot Tamale Louis
- U.S. Air Force Concert Band & Singing Sergeants
- Peter Hamlin, electronic music
- Karel Keldermans, carillon
- Mary Bailey, oboe

Guest artist funds for 2018-19 were supported in part or in full by the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund, the Esther Bley Rinker Endowed Fund for Musical Excellence, the Mark C. Falb Endowed Fund for Applied Music, the Howard and Mary Easter Quasi-Endowment, the Charles & Marleta Matheson Endowed Scholarship/Artists Fund, Spotlight Series patrons, the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences and the UNI School of Music. The School of Music continues to extend its gratitude for these contributions.

Want to Join us for our Guest Artist Series Performances in 2019-20?
Visit music.uni.edu/guestartists

Faculty Spotlight:
Anthony Williams
Associate Professor of Trombone

Anthony Williams is Associate Professor of Trombone at the University of Northern Iowa. He teaches courses in applied trombone, chamber music, trombone pedagogy, trombone literature, and low brass techniques. He also serves as a member of UNI’s jazz faculty by teaching courses in applied jazz trombone and directing the UNI Jazz Trombone Ensemble.

Dr. Williams maintains a high frequency of performing in classical, jazz, and new music settings. His debut solo album, “Synthesis,” is a collection of five newly-commissioned works for solo trombone scored with various ensemble settings that combines classical, Latin, and jazz music. Other recent recordings include Dr. Williams performing as lead trombonist with the Mike Waldrop Big Band on recently released albums, “Origin Suite” and “Time Within Itself.” Additional recording credits include “Grosso for Trombone and Electronics” for Mexican-born composer, Jorge Sosa’s album, “Plastic Time,” and albums by UNI alumni Ryan Middagh and Dave Lisik. He is principal trombonist of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and performs regularly with other orchestras in the region. His current jazz and commercial music performance activity includes appearances with local and regional groups such as The Des Moines Big Band, Orquesta Alto Maiz, NOLA Jazz Band, Big Fun, and many others. Dr. Williams’ past experiences include engagements with the Memphis Symphony, Memphis Jazz Orchestra, Ray Charles Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony, Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Natalie Cole, and Aretha Franklin.

He is a member of the International Trombone Association and the Jazz Education Network.

Williams’ recent projects include recording as trombonist for a forthcoming jazz octet project by jazz guitarist, Ryan Brake, directing the UNI Trombone Octet and Jazz Trombone Ensemble presentation of music by African American composers for a special program for broadcast on Iowa Public Radio, and the release of his first solo album, “Synthesis.” One unique aspect about this recording is that all of the performers have UNI ties and all but one of the composers have UNI ties.
Victor Acavado, undergraduate coordinator and advisor, instructor of music in general studies
- Reviewed the UNI Panther First Award for Excellence in Service.

Cayle Bellamy, assistant professor of bassoon
- Released an album of premiere recordings of works for solo and duo bassoon Double or Nothing, available on iTunes and Amazon.
- Recorded “Deep” by American composer Alex Shapiro selected for record label featured compilation album, Mark Moores, Vol. I.
- Invited to the 2019 regional conference of the College Music Society, performing a program of new works by female composers as a member of the Karios Trio.

Melinda Boyd, associate professor of music history, associate director of undergraduate studies
- Presented research paper, “Deeds of Music made Visible: Reading (and Hearing) P. Craig Russell’s Graphic Novel Adaptation of Richard Wagner’s Ring of the Nibelung,” at the annual national meeting of the American Musicological Society, San Antonio, TX.
- Submitted a book manuscript on women composers as a member of the Kairos Trio.

Michael Conrad, professor of composition and theory, professor of music, director of Composition and Theory Studies
- Conducted the Northern Iowa Symphony at the 2019 Jazz Education Symposium in Greeley, CO.
- Completed six commissioned works for various ensembles, including a jazz reimagination of the Chinese folk song, “Jasmine Flower” for the Contemporary Music Week at UNI.

Michelle Swanson, assistant professor of music education, director of Jazz Studies and Music Education
- Performed a faculty recital and appeared as soloist on Heather Peyton’s faculty recital, Anthony Williams’ CD recording project, with the UNI Wind Ensemble, and with the Cedar Falls Municipal Band.
- Conducting book, published, and performed in residencies at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, and Wichita State University in Wichita, KS.
- Conducted four honor choirs throughout Iowa.

Rodney Pierson, professor of composition, director of composition, professor of cello
- Performed a faculty recital and appeared as soloist on Heather Peyton’s faculty recital, Anthony Williams’ CD recording project, with the UNI Wind Ensemble, and with the Cedar Falls Municipal Band.
- Performed outreach related to Leonard Bernstein’s centennial year, including artistic collaboration with Lisa Wycomb, broadcast interview on statewide KUNI, and a presentation to the Beethoven Club in Cedar Rapids.
- Offered a presentation entitled “Cello Lessons: What We learn from One-on-One Teaching” delivered at the Wakerose Conference in Michigan (summer 2018) and on the UNI campus (fall 2018).

Nancy Hill Cobb, assistant professor of music history, associate professor of music, director of undergraduate studies
- Celebrated her work “And Death Shall Have No Dominion” published by Alliance Music Publications.
- Commissioned by the Metropolitan Chorale to write “I Dream a World,” which they premiered in April.

Michael Conrad, assistant professor of Jazz studies/music education, director of Jazz Band Two
- Completed six commissioned works for various ensembles, including a jazz reimagination of the Chinese folk song, “Jasmine Flower” for the Contemporary Music Week at UNI.

Jonathan Chinoweth, professor of cello
- Developed and piloted a new student/faculty partnership initiative, PANTHER Learning Partnerships, which paired six students as consultants on teaching with eight faculty from seven departments across campus.
- Performed outreach related to Leonard Bernstein’s centennial year, including artistic collaboration with Lisa Wycomb, broadcast interview on statewide KUNI, and a presentation to the Beethoven Club in Cedar Rapids.
- Offered a presentation entitled “Cello Lessons: What We learn from One-on-One Teaching” delivered at the Wakerose Conference in Michigan (summer 2018) and on the UNI campus (fall 2018).

Robin Guy, professor of piano
- Served as the Coordinator of Group Piano for all three levels of classes.
- Performed as solo pianist with the Northern Iowa String Orchestra on Gerald Finzi’s “Eclogue” with John Chiles, conducting.
- Presented “Building Collaborative Piano Skills,” for the January meeting of the Northeast Iowa Area Music Teachers Association, joining with Michelle Monroe, voice faculty, and Lenore Vardi on violin.

Randall Harlow, associate professor of organ and music theory
- Performed a solo recital at the Church of St. Eustache in Paris, home of the largest pipe organ in France.
- Performed a solo recital on the new organ in the Verizon Music Building concert hall at the University of Iowa.
- Awarded a Fulbright Global Scholar Award. In 2020, he will lead a team of researchers at McGill University in Montreal and Orgepark in Amsterdam to build a “Global Hyperorgan,” a groundbreaking intercontinental acoustic musical instrument.

John Hine, professor of voice
- Featured as baritone soloist in performances of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with Jeffrey Brich, tenor, Katherine Osborne, mezzo-soprano, Michelle Monroe, soprano; Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor, and the Northern Iowa Symphony and Choirs, September 2018 and April 2019.

Amy Kotsoris, assistant professor of choral ensembles and music education
- Presented at the Desert Skies Symposium on Research in Music Education biennial national conference in Tempe, AZ.
- Appeared in residencies at Carnegie College in Kenosha, WI, and Wichita State University in Wichita, KS.
- Conducted four honor choirs throughout Iowa.

Danny Galyen, associate professor of music education, director of Jazz Studies and Music Education
- Performed a faculty recital titled “In the Spirit of the Blues” at UNI, with faculty colleagues Ross Winter and guest cellist Rebecca Burkhardt (“Blues Denied” and Ball State University (IN).
- Master class as Lawrence University (WI).

Yu-Ting (Tina) Su, professor of horn
- Performed at the Principal horn with the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra at the 35th Korea International Music Festival in Seoul, South Korea, November 2018.
- Published “Play What You Know” in English and Chinese on the Pedagogy Column for the International Horn Society E-Newsletter, April 2019.

Michelle Swanson, assistant professor of music education
- Conducted as conductor at two UNI Choral Directors Honor Choirs in northeast Iowa and southwest Iowas, and at two UNI Children’s Choir performances.
- Served as faculty co-chair of the Advising Network on UNI Campus, providing leadership to all academic advisors on campus.
- Spoke at the First-Year Peer Mentors for the UNI School of Music, including coordination of programming and hiring.

John Wiles, associate professor of choral conducting
- Released three albums with Concert Chorale and the Verity Men’s Glee Club: “In Paradise: Maurice Ouvrout’s Messe ‘Cum Jubilo’ and ‘Requiem’” (CENTAUR RECORDS); “Transcend: The Music of Robert Young” (MARK RECORDS); and “Dominion” (Self-Produced).
- Touried internationally with Concert Chorale throughout Spain, the Glee Club through out Ireland and Wales, and appeared with the Sertaoz Chamber Chorus in Sarteano, Italy.
- Developed his semi-pro chorus, Vox Peregrini, into a 501c3, did extensive fund raising, and planned multiple forthcoming pilgrimages with this ensemble.
New Hires and Retirements in the School of Music

This year the School of Music celebrated the influential career of two exceptional faculty members as they retired in 2019: Angeleita Floyd and Nancy Cobb celebrated their retirements this year.

Angeleita Floyd
Professor of Flute

Angeleita Floyd, dynamic musician, highly respected conductor and educator, has served as Professor of Flute at the University of Northern Iowa since 1986. With her unique flair for insightful teaching and sensitive musical interpretation, Dr. Floyd has mentored numerous prize-winning students on the regional and national level. Floyd is a frequent guest artist presenting master classes and conducting Festival Flute Orchestras throughout the world and US. Most recently, she was a guest artist at International Flute Festivals in Sweden, Ecuador, Brazil and Costa Rica. Dr. Floyd was invited to present and perform as the Florida State Flute Summit 2019, Tallahassee, Florida, and UMass-Amherst. In 2017, the Northern Iowa Flute Choir, under Dr. Floyd’s direction, performed by invitation at the 45th National Flute Association Convention in Minneapolis, MN. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with many talented and hard-working students, and is proud of the wonderful musicians and educators they have become.

For more on Angeleita’s retirement celebration in May 2019, see page 6.

Nancy Cobb
Professor of Music

Nancy Hill Cobb served as Professor of Music at UNI where she taught courses in composition and theory. Cobb holds the Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition from Oklahoma Baptist University, the Master of Music in Composition from Michigan State University and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to Cobb’s appointment at UNI in 2013, as Associate Provost for Faculty and Administration, she served on the piano faculty as Instructor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma and Texas Christian University; at the latter two universities she held the rank of Professor.

Cobb’s choral music is performed nationally and internationally and is published by Hinshaw Music, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Lorenz Music, Pavanne Music Publishing and Colla Voce Music. In 2016, Cobb’s “Cantate Domino” was named one of the top five all-time best sellers by Santa Barbara Music Publishing. Recent publications include “Laudate Nomen Ejus,” (Santa Barbara Music Publishing) and Holy, Holy, Holy (Lorenz Music), a set of five hymn voluntaries for organ. Her most recent completed work is “And Death Shall Have No Dominion,” commissioned by the Varsity Men’s Glee Club at UNI. As she transitions into retirement from UNI, Cobb continues to work on developing her original musical “The Suffragist.”

While we say goodbye to these remarkable faculty members, we are excited to welcome new faculty who begin their UNI journey this year.

Angeleita Floyd

Steve Sang Kyun Koh
Assistant Professor of Violin

Dr. Steve Sang Kyun Koh will serve as Assistant Professor of Violin at UNI in 2019. From 2017 to 2019, Dr. Koh was Adjunct Instructor in violin at University of Toronto, where he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree. He received his Bachelor of Arts at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where he was the recipient of the Herbert & Helen Allen scholarship and the Dick and Mary Ellen Wilson scholarship. After finishing his Bachelor’s degree, he continued his studies and received his Master’s in String Performance and Pedagogy at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he was the recipient of the coveted Emily Boettcher and Yule Bogue Endowed Fund and the Dick Eckstein Grant. At University of Toronto, he was a student of Professor Yehonatan Berick and the Palsamson Graduate Fellow in Violin.

An avid chamber and orchestral musician, Dr. Koh is co-founder of the Interro String Quartet, which explores diverse programming and ecocentric venues as means to remove chamber music from concert halls and connect with the wider public. With the Interro Quartet, he has been a co-author and recipient of several grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts and has annually commissioned quartet pieces featuring emerging composers in Ontario, Canada. In further support of new music, he is a member of the Toronto Messiaen Ensemble and has collaborated with emerging North American and internationally renowned composers, such as Gideon Glee-Bum Kim, Salvatore Sciarrino, and Ofer Ben-Amots, to name a few. From 2016 to 2018, he was a fellow at the Toronto Summer Music Festival. In addition to these performing activities, he has performed with the Sudbury Symphony, London Symphony, Symphony S.O.N.G., Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Koh has studied with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra National de France, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. His past and current teachers include Kerry Wagner, Helen Heway Kim, Yehonatan Berick, Jonathan Crow, Clara Juni Kang, Svetlin Rouaw, Joel Eimmoff, Koshiro Harada, Gerardo Ribeiro, Kathleen Winkler, Irina Muresanu, and Krzysztof Wegryn. He has performed in solo and chamber music masterclasses for Cyrus Forough of Carnegie Mellon University, Paul Kantor of the Shepherd School of Music, Shmulak Ahlabarsi of the Curtis Institute of Music, Hiroko Yajima of Mannes School of Music, the Philharmonia Quartett Berlin of the Berlin Philharmoniker, and for the Beetsa String Quartet.

Andrea Johnson
Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy

Andrea Johnson is Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at UNI, beginning fall 2019. A candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy degree at the University of Oklahoma, Andrea has an anticipated graduation date of August 2019. Andrea served on the piano faculty as Instructor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma from 2018-2019 where her primary teachers included Dr. Jame Magnani, and Dr. Barbara Fast. Andrea is a graduate of the University of Oregon with a Masters in Piano Pedagogy and Performance and Portland State University with a Bachelors of Musical Arts in Music Performance.

At the University of Oklahoma, Andrea enjoyed collaborative performances with keyboard and string faculty members and her recent invited performances include Portland, Eugene and Monmouth, Oregon; Pullman, Washington and Norman, Oklahoma. Research interests include the application of character development in professional acting to solo piano performance and body mapping for pianists. She is the recipient of several awards and scholarships including the University of Oklahoma’s Provost’s 2017 Graduate Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence in the Fine Arts and Humanities. During her doctoral work, Andrea has presented pedagogy workshops in Oklahoma, most recently at the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association 2018 State Conference on the subject of applications of professional acting techniques to piano performance. Active as an adjudicator, Andrea was most recently asked to judge the 2019 Steinway Junior Piano Competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Andrea Johnson

Kyun Koh
Assistant Professor of Violin

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Andrea Johnson
Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy
Kramer Milan is an active educator and percussionist throughout the United States. As Instructor of Percussion at UNI, Kramer cares deeply about the responsibility to share his passion for music with the next generation of aspiring percussionists. Equally versed in orchestral and chamber music, Kramer held a section percussion position in the Midland Symphony Orchestra from 2017-19 and is a member of the percussion chamber group, The Percussion Collective. His wide experience ranges from performances with Aretha Franklin to the orchestral and chamber music, Kramer held a section percussion position in the Midland Symphony Orchestra, where she made her company debut as a flowermeidern in Parsifal, and also sang the role of Larina in Eugene Onegin. Other career highlights include Zumla in Citaliana in Algeri and the Fortune Teller in Strauss’s Arabella with Santa Fe Opera, and La dia Principessa and Zia in Puccinii’s Il Trittico with Oper Frankfurt. Regional credits include roles with Hawaii Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Memphis, and Wichita Grand Opera. She also sang an extensive variety of leading roles at major opera houses including roles in Il Trovatore, Das Rheingold, Le Nozze di Figaro, and Wozzeck at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Madame Butterfly, Nabucco, and Elektra at Wiener Staatsoper; and Das Rheingold, Siegfried, and Götterniedermergung at Seattle Opera.

An alumna of UNI, Dr. Kramer-Case earned both her Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music while studying under Dr. Jean McDonald. She completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory where she studied with Dr. Anne DeLaunay. She also participated in the Merola Young Artist Program at San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera Young Artist Program, and Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist Program. Dr. Hendrix-Case has won numerous awards, including the 2012 George London Foundation - Kirsten Flagstad Award, and top prize in the 2011 New York Wagner Society competition, as well as awards from the Gerda Lissner Foundation and Sullivan Foundation. She was also a finalist in the Seattle Opera International Wagner Competition.

Kramer Milan
Instructor of Percussion

Stephanie Ycaza
Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium

Stephanie Ycaza is Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium at UNI, where she teaches applied lessons and conducts the UNTUBA ensemble. She has served as adjunct instructor of low brass at Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia State University, Longwood University, and the University of Richmond. She also taught courses in music theory, aural skills, and world music at VCU, Longwood, and Shenandoah University. Stephanie is a faculty member at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, where she teaches low brass and music theory. She also regularly serves as a clinician for middle and high school bands. Stephanie holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Shenandoah University, a Master of Music degree and Artist Diploma from Yale University, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. www.stephanieycaza.com.

Hailed by the New York Times as possessing “rich tone and deft technique,” Hannah Porter Oceña is Assistant Professor of Flute at UNI and Principal Flutist of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra (Topeka, KS). Previous positions include Principal Flute of the Midwest Chamber Ensemble (Prairie Village, KS) and Associate Principal Flute of the Brahms-Mendelssohn Symphony Orchestra (Bismarck, ND). The 2012 Irene Burchard prizewinner at the Royal Academy of Music, Dr. Oceña has performed as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and clinician throughout the US and abroad.

Committed to the rich heritage and new horizons of the repertoire, Dr. Oceña strives to make classical works accessible and engaging to diverse audiences. Between her performance schedule and collegiate teaching responsibilities, Dr. Oceña participates in outreach concerts and programs at schools and community centers. Some of her most meaningful musical experiences have taken place during performances at special needs schools and concerts in association with Autism Speaks.

As a chamber musician and collaborator, Dr. Oceña has worked to bring works to live composers to life. She is a commissioning member of the Flute New Music Consortium and has co-commissioned works by Zhou Long (Confluence, 2015) and Carter Pann (Giants, 2018). She has also privately commissioned and premiered several new works, most recently Shenandoah Variations for flute and orchestra by Joseph Kern in March 2019.

A dedicated scholar, Dr. Oceña has recently presented at the National Flute Association conventions in Orlando and Salt Lake City as well as the Rochester Flute Fair. She has collaborated on new editions of the Sonata in B minor by Amanda Maier and the Sonata, op. 94 by Sergei Prokofiev and serves on the National Flute Association Special Publications Committee.

Dr. Oceña is a 2018 DMA graduate of Stony Brook University, where she studied with Carol Wincenc; she holds a Master of Music Dip.RAM from the Royal Academy of Music and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. When not performing, Dr. Oceña enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. She can be heard on New Beginnings: American and Australian Duos for Flute and Piano with the Oceña-Chen Duo, and Voices from the Middle and Spohr, Forevermore with the Midwest Chamber Ensemble. She is a Miyazawa Artist and plays on a Miyazawa Elite. For more information, please visit hannahportoristentencore.com.

Daniel Swilley is a German-American composer of acoustic and electroacoustic music, and Assistant Professor of Music at UNI, specializing in Composition, Theory and Music Technology. His music and research have been presented at festivals and conferences such as June in Buffalo, SEAMUS, Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium, Understanding Visual Music Symposium, NoiseFloor, New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, Electronic Music Midwest, Studio 300, Audiograph, Electroacoustic Juice Joint, College Music Society, as well as Society of Composer’s Inc. Swilley holds degrees in composition from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (DMA), Georgia State University (MM), and Valdosta State University (BM). His primary composition teachers have included Heinrich Taube, Sever Tippi, Robert Scott Thompson, and Scott Wyatt.

Daniel Swilley
Assistant Professor of Music

Suzanne Hendrix-Case
Assistant Professor of Voice and Vocolology

Suzanne Hendrix-Case, DMA, is assistant professor of voice and voocoly at UNI. In addition to her teaching, she is also an active performer. Recognized for her “piquant mezzo” (Opera News) and “tone-of-a-kind richness” (bicometropolit.org), she has worked at many of the world’s most prominent opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Oper Frankfurt, Grand Théâtre de Genève, and Seattle Opera. She is known for the Wagnerian scope of her voice, and has participated in Der Ring des Nibelungen at five major opera companies.

Dr. Hendrix-Case is scheduled to make her Metropolitan Opera debut as Sottero/Des in Philip Glass’s Akhnaten. She is a former member of the ensemble of the Wiener Staatsoper, where she made her company debut as a flowermeidern in Parsifal, and also sang the role of Larina in Eugene Onegin. Other career highlights include Zumla in Citaliana in Algeri and the Fortune Teller in Strauss’s Arabella with Santa Fe Opera, and La dia Principessa and Zia in Puccinii’s Il Trittico with Oper Frankfurt. Regional credits include roles with Hawaii Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Memphis, and Wichita Grand Opera. She has also covered a variety of leading roles at major opera houses including roles in Il Trovatore, Das Rheingold, Le Nozze di Figaro, and Wozzeck at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Madame Butterfly, Nabucco, and Elektra at Wiener Staatsoper; and Das Rheingold, Siegfried, and Götterniedermergung at Seattle Opera.

As Instructor of Percussion at UNI, Kramer cares deeply about the responsibility to share his passion for music with the next generation of aspiring percussionists. Equally versed in orchestral and chamber music, Kramer held a section percussion position in the Midland Symphony Orchestra from 2017-19 and is a member of the percussion chamber group, The Percussion Collective. His wide experience ranges from performances with Aretha Franklin to the orchestral and chamber music, Kramer held a section percussion position in the Midland Symphony Orchestra, where she made her company debut as a flowermeidern in Parsifal, and also sang the role of Larina in Eugene Onegin. Other career highlights include Zumla in Citaliana in Algeri and the Fortune Teller in Strauss’s Arabella with Santa Fe Opera, and La dia Principessa and Zia in Puccinii’s Il Trittico with Oper Frankfurt. Regional credits include roles with Hawaii Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Memphis, and Wichita Grand Opera. She has also covered a variety of leading roles at major opera houses including roles in Il Trovatore, Das Rheingold, Le Nozze di Figaro, and Wozzeck at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Madame Butterfly, Nabucco, and Elektra at Wiener Staatsoper; and Das Rheingold, Siegfried, and Götterniedermergung at Seattle Opera.

An alumna of UNI, Dr. Kramer-Case earned both her Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music while studying under Dr. Jean McDonald. She completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory where she studied with Dr. Anne DeLaunay. She also participated in the Merola Young Artist Program at San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera Young Artist Program, and Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist Program. Dr. Hendrix-Case has won numerous awards, including the 2012 George London Foundation - Kirsten Flagstad Award, and top prize in the 2011 New York Wagner Society competition, as well as awards from the Gerda Lissner Foundation and Sullivan Foundation. She was also a finalist in the Seattle Opera International Wagner Competition.

Kramer Milan
Instructor of Percussion

Stephanie Ycaza
Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium

Stephanie Ycaza is Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium at UNI, where she teaches applied lessons and conducts the UNTUBA ensemble. She has served as adjunct instructor of low brass at Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia State University, Longwood University, and the University of Richmond. She also taught courses in music theory, aural skills, and world music at VCU, Longwood, and Shenandoah University. Stephanie is a faculty member at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, where she teaches low brass and music theory. She also regularly serves as a clinician for middle and high school bands. Stephanie holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Shenandoah University, a Master of Music degree and Artist Diploma from Yale University, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. www.stephanieycaza.com.

Hannah Porter Oceña
Assistant Professor of Flute

Daniel Swilley
Assistant Professor of Music

The School of Music wishes to congratulate Angeles and Nancy on their retirements, and to welcome Suzanne, Andrea, Steve, Kramer, Hannah, Daniel and Stephanie!
Alumni Updates

The School of Music always loves to hear from our graduates. Success stories, new projects and career or performance highlights are all welcome and celebrated. Please take a moment to check out what your former classmates and fellow alumni have been up to recently!

Marriages

*04 Tim Jones, BM, married Tracy (Cavanaugh) Jones on 8/11/2018.

Births


Thank you to Bonnie Farland and Amy Mohr for assistance in gathering information for this and the entire Alumni News article.

Final Cadence

We were sad to hear of the passing of our musical colleagues and past graduates. We send our sympathies to their families.

*57 George Whaley, BA, died 12/19/17 in Sioux Falls, SD.
*67 Lowell Gangstad, BA, died 7/1/18.
*62 Marilyn (Bundy) Brown, BA, died 7/10/18.
*63 Maryellen (Johnson) Oberhauer, BA, died 7/12/18.
*73 Jo Hebenstreit, BA, died 7/15/18.
*52 William Becker, BA, died 7/16/18.
*72 William Bremans, BA, died 9/20/18.
*56 John Nielsen, BA, died 9/27/18.
*49 Doris (Hanover) White, BA, died 11/30/18.
*70 Carl Hermanson, BA, died 12/18/18.
*45 Marie (Prattke) Allen, BA, died 12/21/18.
*53 Ray (Jefferson) Collins, BA, died 12/22/18.
*40 Doris Miller, BA, died 1/3/19.
*63 Karen (Taylor) Ulmanis, BA, died 1/5/19.
*48 Charles Maya, BA, died 1/9/19.
*61 Merlin Tette, BA, died 1/19/19.
*71 Edward Davies, BA, died 2/24/19.

Thank you

Thank you to all who e-mailed or wrote to Alumni News. If you wish to contribute to the next issue, please complete and return the form in the center of this magazine. We look forward to hearing from you!

Berdesa Beach passed away in June 2017, but through Dr. Beach’s wonderful generosity and her desire to provide permanent support for the UNI School of Music, this year she will bring nationally and internationally renowned artists in the field of music to the UNI campus, and provide scholarship support for students who play high-demand instruments needed to support well-rounded programs in the School of Music.

Want your legacy to live on? Call to speak with the UNI Foundation about including a gift to the School of Music in your estate plans.

(319) 273-7727 | www.uni-foundation.org
Emeritus Faculty Activities

The School of Music is always excited to hear from our exceptional retired professors. We continue to see the lasting effect of their years of dedication and service to our students, and are happy to bring you news on their current projects and travels.

David Buch — David wrote to us about his busy year of musical activity. “I hosted and lectured for the nine-session series ‘Opera Insider’ at Lyric Opera of Chicago (2018-2019 season). I wrote and recorded the commentary for Verdi’s ‘La Traviata’ for Lyric Opera’s website. Then I delivered the pre-opera talks at Lyric Opera for their production of ‘La Traviata.’ I wrote the program for the Salzburg Festival production of Mozart’s ‘The Magic Flute.’ In June, Lucy and I were guests of the Tsinel Landestheater in Innsbruck, Austria for the production of my edition of the opera ‘The Philosopher’s Stone.’ I also participated in a panel discussion on Mozart’s contribution to the music. Lucy and I again spent six glorious weeks with family in beautiful Buenos Aires.”

Marilou Kratzenstein — Marilou sent an update on her recent activities. “Although arthritis prevents me from continuing to make music, my husband, Frank, and I enjoy the many outstanding concerts that are presented in San Diego and Los Angeles. In addition, a highlight of the year was participating in a Road Scholar trip entitled ‘Classical Germany: The Music of Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden.’ Three symphony orchestra concerts, two operas and numerous additional events including lectures by orchestra members and other experts, made this a trip to remember. Another musical highlight was attending the Carmel Bach Festival in Monterey, CA. A trip to New Orleans also allowed us to indulge in a week of jazz and luscious Creole/Cajon cuisine. In between times our lives are filled with church and civic volunteer activities and happy times spent with family, most of whom live in Southern California. We’re grateful to enjoy sufficiently good health to make our active lifestyle possible. My only regret is that we don’t live closer to Cedar Falls so that we could see UNI friends more often.”

Bill Shepherd — Bill wrote to let us know that he retired from leading the Waterloo Municipal after 37 years, and from leading the Iowa Trombones after 30 years. He continues to arrange church chorales for band warm-up use in the Cedar Valley area.

Bob Washut — Bob dropped us a note to update us on his first year post-UNI. “My first year of retirement has been a cool amalgam of travel, creative activity, intellectual stimulation, exercise, and golf (when possible). When asked about my thoughts about retirement, my standard response is ‘I highly recommend it.’”

Alumni Spotlight: Makayla McDonald

McDonald (BM ’15, MM ’17) is embracing her life as a classical and opera singer in New York City. Last fall, she sang the lead role of Harriet Tubman in the New York premiere of Tha María’s “The Story of Harriet Tubman” with Utopia Opera. This spring, she’ll sing with the Bronx Opera in a Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera.

Her performance as Harriet Tubman was an “absolutely amazing experience,” McDonald says, especially with critics describing her soprano as “stellar.” But performing the role was important to her for other reasons, as well.

“I saw myself reflected on stage — a person of color, a woman of color, and that gave me such an overwhelming sense of belonging. I was so excited to get involved in the show and to sing such a large role as Harriet. But walking into that audition room and seeing all these black musicians and to sing such stellar music, I realized I’ve chosen the right career.”

The West High School graduate wasn’t always so certain.

“I resisted classical music for many years. It seemed unattainable to me. I thought it was music reserved for the upper echelons, that it was too exclusive, so I resisted it. It was hard to see anyone who looked like me performing on the operatic stage. That whole dream of people who look like me performing on the operatic stage. That whole dream became a reality.”

At 25, Waterloo native and UNI School of Music alumna Makayla McDonald (BM ’15, MM ’17) is embracing her life as a classical and opera singer in New York City. Last fall, she sang the lead role of Harriet Tubman in the New York premiere of Tha María’s “The Story of Harriet Tubman” with Utopia Opera. This spring, she’ll sing with the Bronx Opera in a Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera.

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“I resisted classical music for many years. It seemed unattainable to me. I thought it was music reserved for the upper echelons, that it was too exclusive, so I resisted it. It was hard to see anyone who had my skin color reflected up there on stage. I thought it wasn’t for me,” McDonald recalls.

At the University of Northern Iowa School of Music, McDonald finally began an in-depth exploration of the classical and operatic canon. She studied with vocal instructor Jeffrey Brissh, vocal coaches Korey Barrett and Mark Blyeu and acting coaches Mitza Sadeghpour and Cynthia Goatley, among others. The soprano earned both her bachelor and master’s degrees in voice performance from UNI.

While at UNI, McDonald performed roles in such UNI opera and operetta scenes as “Little Harlequinade,” “Signor Delaco,” “Suannah,” “Dialogues des Carmelites,” “Celui d’amour” and “Dead Man Walking.”

“’She also played a young Ann Richards in the premiere of Cynthia Goatley’s ‘Just Ann,’” and performed with the Metropolitan Choral in a commissioned piece by Andrew Boyoun Jr., “To Break Earth’s Sleep.”

After graduation, McDonald believed New York City was the place to begin building her professional career. “I hit the ground running. Every single day I have to make a good impression. It can be hard. I was used to the comfort of singing at UNI and with community groups. Being in Manhattan means I have to put all my skills to the test.”

The soprano has already had a great measure of success. In addition to the Tubman role, she has performed with the Dell’Arte Opera Ensemble and the Light Opera of New York.

Recently she worked with the Bronx Opera on Gilbert & Sullivan’s comic opera “Mikado.” The opera opened in April, with McDonald singing the role of Peep-Bo. She also is working with New York City Lyric Opera. McDonald participated in Dell’Arte Opera Ensemble’s 2019 Summer Festival, “Voices from the Tower.”

“’These are amazing opportunities, and it’s reaffirming to see other people who look like me performing on the operatic stage. That whole experience of performing the Harriet Tubman role, that solidly affirms that this is what I’m meant to be doing,’” McDonald adds.

Editor’s note: thank you to The Courier for the use of this article.

Alumna Toni LeFebvre Leads Iowa Women’s Jazz Orchestra

Since the birth of jazz, there have always been outstanding jazz musicians of all genders. However, there still remain fewer visible women in the genre. Toni LeFebvre, an alumna of both UNI and University of Iowa’s music programs, is changing that.

LeFebvre is now going on two full years of playing in the Iowa Women’s Jazz Orchestra, which she founded in November 2017. The purpose of IWJO is to perform in front of audiences of middle school, high school, and college-aged students to show aspiring jazz musicians that there are active professionals in college-aged students to show aspiring jazz musicians that there are active professionals in Iowa who are women—and they’re right here in Iowa.

“We want to show them that—these are women playing jazz, this is what we sound like, this is what we look like, and you all can do this as well,” said LeFebvre.

Since 2017, IWJO has had the chance to perform in front of hundreds, even thousands of students at a time, including the annual Iowa Jazz Championships in Des Moines.

LeFebvre says it’s also a great way to showcase the jazz talent that comes out of her home state. Most of the band members are music educators.

“Iowa has such a special tradition of jazz and jazz education,” she said. “I know something like this could thrive and really inspire students and teachers throughout the state.”

LeFebvre, who also gigs with internationally renowned Divo Jazz Orchestra, will begin a new job as a music educator in the fall. But even though she’s now entering a new life as a busy band director, the IWJO performances won’t stop.

“We made this dream of inspiring young men and women musicians in our state come true,” she said. “I’m just really excited this is all happening.”

To learn more about IWJO, visit www.iowawomenjazz.com.

Editor’s note: thank you to CBS2/Fox28 for their assistance with this article.

Spotlight: Toni LeFebvre

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Editor’s note: thank you to CBS2/Fox28 for their assistance with this article.
Waller Gift to Benefit UNI Guitar Players

The School of Music recently received six beautiful guitars owned by the late Robert J. Waller. Dr. Waller was Emeritus Dean of the College of Business Administration and Professor of Management, and spent 35 years at the University of Northern Iowa. Robert had great admiration and respect for the UNI jazz program and was a bit of a jazz musician himself. Robert wished to gift the guitars so that they would continue to be played well into the future.

Robert has provided additional monetary gifts to the jazz program but these guitars are a visible symbol of his passion for music and his wish that they “continue to make music” for all who play them.

Director of the School of Music, Dr. Jeffrey Funderburk stated, “We are delighted to receive such a generous gift of instruments. These guitars are beautiful and have already been enjoyed in a number of concerts. Faculty and students for many years will have the pleasure of performing on these excellent instruments and will benefit from the Wallers’ generosity.” The gift includes guitars from four makers: Sadowsky, Solomon, Taylor and Wright.

Editor’s note: thank you to Noreen Hermansen and Jeff Funderburk for their contribution of this article.

Living Legend: Al Naylor

Jazz trumpeter and UNI alumnus Al Naylor is getting by with a little help from his friends. Naylor, a lifelong performer and music educator who currently is battling cognitive health issues, and twenty-nine of his friends, former students and colleagues got together in January to record what likely will be his final CD, titled “Friends.” The album features several favorite standards, alongside a few originals that hadn’t previously been recorded, as well as a new piece titled “Nubbs (for Al),” penned by James Dreier.

Naylor grew up in Jefferson, Iowa, and began a performance career early, touring with rock bands for four years before returning to Iowa to complete both a bachelor’s and master’s degree at UNI. He continued his studies in New York after earning his master’s, but ultimately returned to Iowa in the 1980s to begin teaching at Linn-Mar middle school, where he later became director of jazz studies. Naylor has served as educator in Iowa middle schools, his private studio, and at Coe College for 28 years. He appeared twice at the highly celebrated Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, and was named to the Jazz Educators of Iowa Hall of Fame in 2013. Additionally, The Pages, an Oelwein band Naylor joined in 1972, was inducted into the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.

While Al has noted that his appearance at this summer’s Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival may be his final live performance, he will continue to teach and still loves interacting with his students.

The new album, “Friends” is available through Amazon.com and CDbaby.com.
Spotlight Series Performances

2019-2020

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band
Danny Galyen & Justin Merz, conductors
Friday, October 4, 2019
7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One & Jazz Band Two
Christopher Merz & Michael Conrad, conductors
Friday, October 11, 2019
7:30 PM Bengston Auditorium, Russell Hall

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Friday, October 18, 2019
7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Varsity Glee Club & Women’s Chorus
John Len Wiles & Amy Kotsonis, conductors
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
7:30 PM GBPAC

UNI Choirs Concert
Amy Kotsonis & John Len Wiles, conductors
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
7:30 PM GBAC

Jazz Band Two
Michael Conrad, conductor
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
7:30 PM Bengston Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Singers & Symphonic Band
Amy Kotsonis & John Len Wiles, conductors
Tuesday, April 23, 2020
7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Wind Ensemble
Danny Galyen, conductor
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Thursday, March 5, 2020
7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Singers & Concert Chorale
Amy Kotsonis & John Len Wiles, conductors
Thursday, April 23, 2020
7:30 PM GBAC

Jazz Band One
Christopher Merz, conductor
Friday, April 24, 2020
7:30 PM Bengston Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Opportunities to Give

There are over one hundred individual funds that are open and eligible to give to, if you are interested and able to support the School of Music. With funds dedicated to specific instruments, majors, ensembles and more, you are sure to find a way to direct your gift exactly where you’d like to go. Here is a sampling of opportunities in need of your support.

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  Supports scholarships for all music students.
- School of Music Benefit Concert Endowed Scholarship – (210276-30)
  Supports scholarships for all music students.
- Robert Dean Memorial Endowed Scholarship – (211036-30)
  Supports scholarships for instrumental education majors.
- Musical Excellence Endowed Scholarship – (212373-30)
  Supports scholarships for all music majors.
- Voice Performance Scholarship – (212512-21)
  Supports scholarships for vocal performance majors.
- A. John Holstad Endowed Piano Scholarship – (212964-30)
  Supports scholarships for pianists.
- Jim Coffin Endowed Jazz Scholarship – (213154-30)
  Supports scholarships for jazz students.
- School of Music Development Fund – (220431-21)
  Supports hosting alumni and friends, retirement and award activities of faculty/staff, and developing new contacts for the School, etc.
- Charles and Marleta Matheson Endowed Scholarship and Artists Fund – (220469-30)
  Supports scholarships for all music students.
- Thomas Cupps Memorial Jazz Endowed Scholarship – (220881-30)
  Supports scholarships for jazz performance majors.
- Dorothy and Robert Dean Endowed Visiting Artists/Scholarship Fund – (221751-30)
  Supports hosting guests and visiting artists and scholars in the School of Music, as well as scholarships for all music students.
- Choral Enrichment and Opportunity Fund – (222925-21)
  Supports scholarships, and expands support to touring choirs and choral programmatic needs.
- Schultz Studio Fund – (232115-21)
  Supports necessary upgrades and refurbishment of the Schultz Recording Studio.

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(see page 14 for Scholarship Benefit Concert donors)

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$ __________ Thomas Capps Memorial Jazz Endowed Scholarship – (220811-30), supports scholarships for jazz performance majors.

$ __________ Dorothea and Robert Dean Endowed Visiting Artists/Student Fund – (227151-30), supports hosting guests and visiting artists and scholars in the School of Music, as well as scholarships for all students.

$ __________ Choral Enrichment and Opportunity Fund – (229295-21), supports scholarships, and expands support to touring choirs and choral programmatic needs.

$ __________ Schulz Studio Fund – (223215-21), supports necessary upgrades and refurbishment of the Schulz Recording Studio.

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Online: If you prefer, you may give via the UNI Foundation secure website: music.uni.edu Use the “Give Now” button in the header or footer of the homepage. This will take you to a secure site with several funds choices, or you can enter your own section in the “Other” section.

My or my spouse's company: _____________________________ (name), will match my gift. (Please contact your HR office for details and matching gift form to be submitted with payment.)

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