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Rhythms

Music at the University of Northern Iowa

Volume 42, Fall 2023

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The University of Northern Iowa is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for affirmative action.
Dear Friends,

In reflecting back on the previous year here in the UNI School of Music, it is another filled with remarkable performances, classes and accomplishments by my outstanding colleagues and our terrific students! You will find a good number of those celebrated in the coming pages.

In last year’s Rhythms, you may recall that we had a story about the work planned for the UNI Carillon. During a terrific celebration at homecoming, the bells were heard one last time before they went silent for the school year while work was done on them at the Verdin factory in Cincinnati, Ohio. At the beginning of May, the bells returned including the two new large bells (C# and D#) that had always been missing as well as seven additional treble bells. The new keyboard and a total redesign of the upper levels of the campanile completed the carillon portion of the project. Our former colleague and friend, Bob Byrnes (1949-2004; B.A. ’71, M.A. ’77) who worked for many years to have such an upgrade accomplished would be proud of the work finally completed. In recognition of his many years devoted to the instrument, the new playing room will be named in his honor.

Jeffrey Funderburk
Director & Professor

As things in the performing arts have finally returned to a more normal footing, two of our groups had very successful international tours. The Panther Marching Band spent a nice part of January in Spain and in May, Jazz Band One had a great trip to South Africa. You’ll find a lot more about those experiences in the coming pages.

Our Opera students had a special experience this year as the school commissioned a new opera which was composed and developed over the past two years. In the spring, the world premiere of “The Beehive” allowed those students to have a unique experience working with composers and helping to shape a new art work. Another excellent, practical, real-world experience that we strive to bring to our students!

We had an impressive slate of guest artists this year, funded primarily through generous donations from some of you, as well as friends who have come to appreciate the work done by the School of Music faculty, staff and students. This year also was our turn to host the Hearst Lecture Series which added even more artists to this year’s roster and also significantly upgraded our New Music Festival which enjoyed its second year.

Lastly, this will be my last message as Director of the School of Music. After 36 years here at UNI and the last six having the honor of leading this amazing operation, I am stepping down as director and retiring, effective August 1. It’s time for a new era of leadership as the school continues to grow stronger and more resilient every year. I’m sure you join me in looking forward to learning of the future successes!

Thank you for your support through the years and please enjoy reading about the UNI School of Music’s year in review!

Jeffrey Funderburk
Director & Professor

I want to begin by wishing Dr. Funderburk all the best on his well-deserved retirement. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Associate Director in the School of Music in collaboration with Jeff for the past five years. Given his 36 years of experience as a faculty member and administrator – not to mention his vast knowledge of institutional history, policy and practice – Dr. “Fun” leaves behind some very big shoes to fill.

As Interim Director, my role is to keep the trains running on schedule until a new director is selected. The School of Music has long been a signature program at the University of Northern Iowa; we will continue to work with purpose, persistence and resilience for many years to come.

Melinda Boyd, Ph.D.
Interim Director & Professor of Musicology and Music History
It’s not every day you get to perform in front of more than a million people – but for students involved in the University of Northern Iowa’s Panther Marching Band, it’s a rite of passage. Every two years, the Panther Marching Band (PMB) hosts an international trip. In the past, students have performed at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Dublin, in historic cathedrals in Italy and in cities large and small around the globe.

Over winter break this year, around 90 students from the PMB traveled to Madrid, Spain, where they performed in the annual Three Kings Parade. This parade marks the 12th day of Christmas, called Epiphany or Three Kings Day, when children receive presents. Approximately 1.5 million people watched the parade in person on Jan. 5, with millions more watching on television.

“It was a little overwhelming once we got there,” said Emily Carlo, a freshman anthropology major who plays the trumpet in PMB. “You saw all the people, and you saw the insanely
decorated floats and some of the attractions they had. But once you got into it, the people just yelling and enjoying the music — it made it all worth it.”

“We were practically celebrities there,” said Quinlan Manross, a senior movement and exercise science major who plays the mellophone in PMB. “Two separate families came up to us and asked if their kids could get a picture with us.” Manross said marching bands aren’t as common in Europe as they are in the U.S. He believes there was only one other marching band — a high school band from California — in the parade.

“A big part of the university band’s mission is to be an ambassador for its institution,” said PMB conductor and UNI faculty artist Justin Mertz. “Our students did that and more, and I could not be more proud of the work they did and how well they represented our university on a very large international stage.”

During the parade route of nearly two miles, Panther Marching Band played “Holiday” by Green Day, “Come Together” by the Beatles and “Ode to Joy” by Beethoven. Carlo said the crowd seemed to respond the most to “Ode to Joy.” In fact, the parade coordinators heard PMB rehearsing “Ode to Joy” and invited the band to stop by city hall and perform for the mayor.

“The city hall was gorgeous,” said Carlo. “It was all lit up. There were cameras pointed at us, and it was a lot to take in, but we played well.”

While being in the parade was the main event for PMB, the students got the chance to sightsee throughout their trip. They visited the cities of Toledo and Segovia, which included a stop at a medieval castle. They shopped at a flea market, toured the Prado Museum of art and watched a flamenco performance.

Neither Carlo nor Manross had ever been abroad prior to the Spain trip. The prospect of going overseas for the first time was something that drew them both to sign up.

“I think it definitely made me more worldly,” said Carlo, a Pella native. “I feel like I was kind of in my own little bubble because I’ve grown up in Iowa my entire life. So, you know, getting to see how different cultures interact is just really something special.”

Typically, Panther Marching Band does an international trip every two years, but the initial plan to be in the Three Kings Parade in 2021 was put on hold due to COVID-19.

“The PMB has established a reputation for itself as a great American band that does performances abroad,” said Mertz. “Based upon our previous engagements in London, Rome and Dublin, we were invited to the parade in Madrid.”

Manross, who is from Denver, Iowa, had been looking forward to the trip for years, ever since he heard about it at a PMB open house as a senior in high school. He eagerly counted down the days to the trip leading up to the flight to Spain.

“I was pretty excited,” he said. “I remember the last couple of nights, I was like, ‘All right, two more sleeps. One more sleep.’ For Manross, PMB is the thing that made him decide to come to UNI. Growing up playing in band, he’d always loved the way the activity combined his love of sports with his love of music. It was something he knew he wanted to continue in college. “I’d been going to games since I was little, and I always wanted to be in a college marching band somewhere,” said Manross. “I just loved the atmosphere I saw at games.”

A typical week for Panther Marching Band members involves practicing three days a week for two hours per practice. They have an additional practice on the days of home football games, where PMB always performs.

“I’m used to having those big commitments,” said Carlo. “So, for me, marching band is just another part of my daily life. You’re doing a lot of hard work, but you’re seeing the results of the hard work, and you get to see people enjoying those results.” Through Panther Marching Band, Carlo has expanded her circle of friends. “My closest friendships right now are people from PMB,” she said. “They’ve made the transition to college much easier. We’re just a giant family. If you want to find a place where you will always be accepted and you always know that you have somebody to go to, PMB is the place.”

Editor’s note: thank you to University Relations’ Anna Flanders for her contribution of this article.
The School of Music was proud to host the 2022-23 Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist Series. We were honored to welcome four distinguished and exceptionally talented artists and ensembles in residency this year.

Visiting ensemble Stiletto Brass Quintet kicked off the series with a guest recital on Sept. 15. Members of the group include Amy Gilreath, trumpet, Stacie Mickens, horn, Hana Beloglavec, trombone, Velvet Brown, tuba, and an artist near and dear to our hearts – UNI alumna Susan Rider ('89). Now in their twelfth season, Stiletto Brass Quintet has gained exposure as a leading chamber ensemble with performances eliciting rousing ovations with the Pops Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota, at the Festival de Música de Cámara in Aguascalientes Mexico, the International Women’s Brass Conference, with Doc Severinsen and the Heartland Festival Orchestra, at the National Trumpet Competition, the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the Great American Brass Band Festival, and concerts throughout the United States. The ensemble also shared the stage with Italian jazz great Andrea Tofanelli and commissioned and premiered a new composition entitled "Scarpe!". An adamant believer in music for young people, Stiletto Brass, while on tour, regularly performs educational concerts and gives master classes in the schools. Our UNI students were thrilled to engage with these exceptional artists.

Feb. 2023 brought the UNI New Music Festival and with it came two more exceptional Hearst Series visiting artists: Chen Yi and Ensemble Dal Niente.

Ensemble Dal Niente appeared in concert at UNI on Feb. 24. Members of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra had the amazing opportunity to play side-by-side with the group as part of their performance.

Ensemble Dal Niente performs new and experimental chamber music with dedication, virtuosity and an exploratory spirit. Flexible and adaptable, Dal Niente’s roster of 26 musicians presents an uncommonly broad range of contemporary music, guiding listeners towards music that transforms existing ideas and subverts convention. Audiences coming to Dal Niente shows can expect distinctive productions – from fully staged operas to multimedia spectacles to intimate solo performances – that are curated to pique curiosity and connect art, culture and people.

As a prolific composer who blends Chinese and Western traditions, transcending cultural and musical boundaries, Chen Yi is a recipient of the Ives Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2001. She has been Lorena Cravens/ Millsap/Missouri Distinguished Professor at the Conservatory of Music and Dance in the University of Missouri-Kansas City since 1998. She was elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2005, and the American Academy of Arts & Letters in 2019.

Dr. Chen’s works were highlighted in numerous concerts throughout the 22-23 season in the School of Music. On Feb. 25, a concert featuring works exclusively composed by Chen was held. The concert featured faculty artists Hannah Porter-Occeña, Amanda McCandless, Ben Roidl-Ward, Sang Koh, Isidora Nojkovic, Matthew Andreini, Natia Shioshvili, Erik Rohde, Tyler Hendrickson, Alexander Pershounin, Joshua Graham and Vakhtang Kodanashvili, as well as the UNI New Music Ensemble and additional student performers, with the composer in attendance.
Gryphon Trio was the final ensemble featured on the Hearst Series in the School of Music. Offering a series of masterclasses and lectures for UNI students throughout their April residency, the group also performed a final concert in the Great Hall at the Gallagher Bluedorn on April 6. Gryphon Trio is firmly established as one of the world’s preeminent piano trios. For more than 25 years, it has earned acclaim and impressed international audiences with its highly refined, dynamic and memorable performances. The Trio’s repertoire ranges from traditional to contemporary, and from European classicism to modern-day multimedia. It is committed to redefining chamber music for the 21st century.

Violinist Annalee Patipatanakoon, cellist Roman Borys, and pianist Jamie Parker are creative innovators with an appetite for discovery and new ideas. They have commissioned over 85 new works, and they frequently collaborate with other artists on projects that push the boundaries of classical music. The Trio tours regularly throughout North America and Europe.

These special events were all highly celebrated in the School of Music and throughout the UNI community. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends continue to communicate what a thrill it was to have such exceptional artists here in our midst, and we are so grateful for the incredible opportunity to host this series.

The School of Music launched the Amplify: Inclusivity project in 2022-23. The goal of this initiative was to highlight diversity and inclusion in the School of Music curriculum, programming, guest artist recitals and guest speaker presentations.

Faculty continued to prioritize representation of historically under-represented groups in these areas. Students joined faculty in the planning and presentation of these highlighted events and activities and engaged in the ongoing discussion about diversity, equity and inclusion within the School of Music.

As part of the project, 91 composers, performers and curriculum aspects were featured in the series this year. Though the series wrapped up in May 2023, our faculty and students are committed to continuing to prioritize the representation of historically under-represented groups in these areas in the future.

Take a look back through the year of highlights at music.uni.edu/amplify-inclusivity.

The School of Music has chosen to amplify other important aspects of our program in an ongoing series in the years to come.

The focus for 2023-24 will be Amplify: Engagement, and will explore the many ways that our students, faculty, staff, alumni and programs reach out and engage within our community and with the world around us.

To learn more, look for “Special Events and Series” on the News & Events section of the School of Music website.
Our community outreach programs continued to explore new and innovative ways of bringing music to their students this year.

Celebrating our success

Spectrum Project

The UNI School of Music’s Spectrum Project held its second annual Spectrum JamFest on May 20 at the River Place Plaza in Cedar Falls. The event was emceed by local celebrity Gary Kroeger and featured over 35 bands from Iowa schools, as well as headliner Mandy Harvey.

Kevin Droe, associate professor of music at the UNI School of Music, serves as Coordinator of the UNI Spectrum Project. “Spectrum JamFest is an annual outdoor music festival that serves as a benefit concert for the UNI Spectrum Project, a program designed to provide music, drama, dance and art experiences for children with diverse needs in the Cedar Valley,” Droe said. “The event aims to meet two significant objectives: supporting the UNI Spectrum Project and providing a platform for local school rock bands to showcase their talent and to feel like rock stars for the day.”

Headliner Mandy Harvey is a singer, songwriter, author and speaker who happens to be deaf. Harvey was Simon Cowell’s “Golden Buzzer” pick on America’s Got Talent. The video of her audition has received over 500 million views collectively. Harvey uses her talents and artistry to encourage others which can be seen by her many acts as part of nonprofit organizations such as No Barriers USA and work for “Music: Not Impossible” with Not Impossible Labs.

“A former student from the UNI Ukulele Club worked with Mandy at No Barriers and was able to get us connected with her,” Droe noted. “Mandy Harvey is a wonderful songwriter with an amazing voice. Her songs contain beautiful melodies and inspiring stories. Despite losing her residual hearing at age 19, she has continued to overcome many hurdles and follow her passion for music. Mandy is a huge disability-rights advocate, and we were thrilled to have her here to perform at Spectrum JamFest.”

For more information on Spectrum JamFest, visit www.spectrumproject.org.

Headliner Mandy Harvey taking time between JamFest acts to work on ukulele skills with Spectrum Project participant Lilly

Mandy Harvey
Community Music School

Sometimes you just need to have ice cream! On a sunny afternoon, the Community Music School hosted a Root Beer Float Social at Place to Play Park in Cedar Falls to introduce the incoming Children’s Choir Director, Ryan Occeña to choir members. In addition to directing the Children’s Choir at UNI, Occeña is the chorus director at Central Middle School (Waterloo) and artistic director of the Metropolitan Chorale. The Children’s Choir kicked off Occeña’s inaugural season with a “Night on Broadway.” Choir members came from Cedar Falls, Evansdale, Janesville, Waverly-Shell Rock and Waterloo.

The Community Music School added several UNI student teachers to their roster, including sophomore music education and jazz studies major Claire Uselding. Through CMS, Claire teaches saxophone lessons and works with the New Horizons Band Saxophone section.

This past spring, Claire directed the section performing “Summertime” by George Gershwin during the New Horizons concert, with over 500 people in attendance. Rounding out the same concert was clarinet soloist Heather Hamilton, Director of the Community Music School, performing “Lightning Fingers” by Henry Filmore.

In addition to the Children’s Choir and New Horizons Band, Camp Musicmania, group and private lessons took place throughout the year, honoring the belief that “Music Should Last a Lifetime” with students as young as four years old to lifelong adult learners.

Editor’s note: thank you to Cathy Craig and Heather Hamilton for their contributions to this article.

Suzuki School

The UNI Suzuki School continues to rebuild following several years of reduced activity due to the pandemic. Regular activities returned including individual and group activities, two weekends of student recitals, a faculty recital, Verismo Chamber Music ensembles, and the annual spring concert. The Northern Iowa Junior Orchestra, conducted by Alex Lafrenz, and the Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra, conducted by John Chiles, continued with weekly rehearsals and spring tours.
Without question, the most recognizable name in the history of the Campanile is Bob Byrnes. Bob was the carillonneur for UNI during his 32-year career (1972-2004) with the School of Music. At 9 p.m. every evening, students, faculty, staff and the surrounding neighborhoods would listen as the bells came alive with Bob’s music. Bob’s passion for the carillon was only matched by his love for the Varsity Men’s Glee Club, which he directed for much of his tenure at UNI. He was beloved by so many in the Glee Club. Now, through the generosity of the Les Hale Endowed Fund board and many Glee Club alumni, the carillon playing room at the top of the Campanile will be named the Bob Byrnes Carillon Playing Room. Senior Director of Development, College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences Dan Brietbach said, “It’s hard to imagine a more fitting way to recognize Bob.”

Editor’s note: thank you to Dan Brietbach and the UNI Foundation for their assistance with this article.
The Rose Parade, an iconic tradition to ring in the New Year, is a time of excitement for high school bands all across the country. This year’s festivities in Pasadena, California, included not one, not two, but three marching bands led by University of Northern Iowa alumni. Jack Jean, ’89, led the Brookwood Bronco Marching Band from Snellville, Georgia; Joe Finnegan, ’89, led the Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band from Minocqua, Wisconsin; and Gabe Schott, ’14, led the Pella Marching Dutch from Pella, Iowa, with Samuel Nau, ’20, teaching bodywork and visuals. All four band directors received their UNI degrees in instrumental music education.

“My years at UNI gave me the skill set to help build a band program worthy of performing in the Tournament of Roses Parade,” said Jean, who leads a band of 215 members.

“UNI has been paramount for my role as a band director,” said Nau. “The skills taught to me by my ensemble directors, studio professors and education professors are used daily.”

Earning a spot in the 5.5-mile parade route is no small feat. The application is lengthy, requiring videos of parade and show performances. The bands must also highlight the hometowns they represent. According to Jean, it can take as long as eight years after applying to find out a band has been accepted to perform in the Rose Parade.

“We officially found out we were invited in October 2021, and we were in complete shock,” said Jean.

While most bands have to go through the application process, Finnegan’s Northwoods Marching Band, which totaled 400 members, received a special invitation from 2023 Tournament of Roses President Amy Wainscott. As a native of northcentral Wisconsin, Wainscott wanted the area to be showcased in the parade. Since none of the schools were big enough to participate on their own, she came up with the idea of eight school bands, including Finnegan’s school DC Everest, coming together to form one larger ensemble.

These years-in-the-making performances resulted in great pride not only for the participants but for their entire hometowns as well.

“They performed incredibly well, and the entire town of Pella was watching from afar,” said Schott, who led 210 members in the parade. “It was a whirlwind of a trip, but memories were made in six short days that will be remembered forever.”

“You cannot recreate that feeling of the positive vibes the audience gives back in a rehearsal,” said Finnegan. “Once the students started down the parade route, all of those months of planning and preparing became real, and their performance level became a peak experience.”

While each band director comes from a different school in a different state, they all share a common history at the University of Northern Iowa — a history that no doubt helped them get to where they are today.

“I would not be who I am if it were not for the School of Music at the University of Northern Iowa,” said Finnegan. “This school completely prepared me for my future. With the guidance of an amazing staff and a family that instilled a solid sense of hard work ethics, I am so proud to proclaim the education I received from UNI as superior.”

“The music program at UNI is second to none in the state of Iowa,” said Schott. “The quality instruction, real-world experience and relationships I developed through the opportunities provided at UNI set me up to be successful both inside and outside the band room.”

While there is a waiting period for bands to reapply to be in the parade, many of the band directors hope to apply again in the future.

“Our high school band goes on a large trip such as this one every four years,” said Nau. “It is not a guarantee that we will be accepted, but I am optimistic that Pella will be back in Pasadena in the future.”

Editor’s note: thank you to Anna Flanders for her contribution of this article.
The Jazz Studies division is still catching its collective breath after an extremely busy and rewarding year. Here’s what we’ve been up to:

**Jazz Bands One, Two and Three have a new off-campus home**

Beginning in November, the three big bands took up residence at our new off-campus home, Bryan’s Blue Plate in the Best Western Plus of Waterloo. The bands played there in November, February and March. The “fit” is cozy, but sight lines and sound are good, and the food is excellent. Thanks to Bryan Sink and his staff for opening up for us.

Also in November, the big bands continued the relatively new tradition of playing runout concerts in the Waterloo public high schools. This year was West’s turn. Thanks to Jason Dobbs for allowing us to visit.

**World-class guest artists**

Visits by guest artists are a vital aspect of our instructional philosophy. This year’s guests included UNI alumni Jim Dreier (two separate visits focusing on drum set and Latin percussion) and Kyle Novak (applications of technology in jazz performance, practice and composition), Kansas City-based saxophonist Adam Larson and his trio, trumpeter Jon Ailabouni (UW LaCrosse), and Tallcorn/Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz guest artist, Israeli clarinetist Anat Cohen.

**Student-centered creativity**

All three big bands, as well as many of the combos, premiered compositions and arrangements by UNI students and faculty on concerts throughout the year, including on Jazz Band One’s South African tour (more on that below). In addition, trombonist Levi Temple recorded an album of original material for jazz combo in our studio at Russell Hall.

Combining musical creativity with research, two students completed Honors Thesis projects this year. Alayna Ringsby’s project, “Unswung Heroes: Three Arrangements Highlighting Women Jazz Composers,” explores the music of Mary Lou Williams, Melba Liston and Terry Pollard through new arrangements by Ringsby, recorded by UNI students Levi Dugger, Tyler Utter, Logan Neifert, Sam Stover and Jackson Schou. The project is available on Bandcamp.

Riley Jermier’s project, “The Sacrifice of Artistry for a Convenient Society,” explores the balance between audio fidelity and consumer convenience.

**Faculty spotlight**

Jazz Division faculty engaged in a great deal of creative work this year. October saw the premiere of a new band, Shorter Stories, which includes all members of the jazz faculty (Christopher Merz, Mike Conrad, Anthony Williams, Alex Pershounin, and Bob Dunn) as well as drummer Josh Hakanson and trumpeter Jon Ailabouni. The band features fresh arrangements of the music of Wayne Shorter.

The Iowa Jazz Composers’ Orchestra, led by Conrad and including Williams and Merz, continues to be a forum for Iowa big band composers. This year, the band had performances at The James Theater in Iowa City, Rivermont Collegiate in Davenport (as part of the Polyrhythms Third Sunday Jazz series), The Oster Regent Theater in Cedar Falls, and the Iowa Bandmasters’ Convention in Des Moines.

In March, both Merz and Conrad were featured on KCCK’s Corridor Jazz project which pairs soloists with high school jazz bands for a large concert event. In May, Conrad had the honor of directing the 4A Iowa All-State Jazz Band at the IBA conference.

**Welcome addition**

Mike and Ashley Conrad welcomed their new daughter, Madeline, into the world on October 26. We are so very glad you are here, Madeline!
South Africa trip

As mentioned before, Jazz Band One mounted a South African tour from May 14-25. The band performed a concert a day for the first seven days in the country, with appearances at Tswane University, UNISA, the University of Pretoria, the University of KwaZulu Natal (2 performances), the Denis Hurley Center and the eMakhatini Boutique Hotel. In addition to performances, the students enjoyed visits to cultural sites (the Union Building and Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria, the township of Inanda, Nelson Mandela’s home in Soweto, and the Apartheid Museum), the KwaZulu Natal Shark Board, and the Durban Beach on the Indian ocean. Students also experienced the Elephant Sanctuary at Hartbeespoort, the Hluhluwe Game Reserve, and the Hippo Cruise at St. Lucia. This trip fulfilled a long-standing desire of Professor Merz to return to South Africa, where he taught from 1991-1994.

Editor’s note: thank you to Chris Merz for his contribution of this article, and to the students and faculty who provided photos from the South Africa tour.
In spring 2023, students in Dr. Alison Altstatt’s Music History topics class Chant from Manuscript: History, Theory, Scholarship, Practice indexed and transcribed an early sixteenth-century chant manuscript containing the Office of the Dead and other end-of-life liturgies. The manuscript, recently acquired by the University of Iowa Library Special Collections, is believed to be from the French royal convent of Saint Louis de Poissy. The class culminated in a presentation to the University of Iowa’s Musicology Colloquium, entitled “Medieval Chant Manuscripts from Women’s Communities in University of Iowa Libraries: Collaborative Musicological Research and Digital Scholarship.”

In their conclusion, the students observed that: We learned many things from studying the Iowa rituale and Office of the Dead. One was the difficulty in reading the text, because the handwriting is so different, and certain letter forms can look very similar or appear to blend into one other. We also had to learn the abbreviations that were used for certain words, as well as the difference in spelling between fifteenth-century and standard Latin. Consequently, the time we spent studying and singing from this book familiarized us with Latin vocabulary and pronunciation. We were able to see how the melodies followed certain patterns depending upon the mode and even some moments of text painting.

This project also helped us to better understand the importance and function of chant in Medieval religious communities. We were able to see firsthand the amount of work and care that would have gone into creating a book like this. The organization and notation of the music supported the fact that these liturgies were very well known by the community, and books served more as aid for memory rather than something to read directly out of. By learning to sing parts of the liturgies, we were able to experience a learning process that the nuns of Poissy also went through. The frequent scribal errors also supported our feeling of connection to the nuns of the past: they showed us that these women were capable musicians, yet fallible human beings. The mistakes forced us to ask questions about memory and practice that may have otherwise not come up. We had to think about how to interpret “flawed” sources when no clear answer or reason was available.

The manuscript description and index prepared by the class will be published digitally as part of the international Digital Humanities project: “Cantus: a Database of Latin Ecclesiastical Chant,” where it will be freely available online to both researchers and the general public.
Video game music is among the most frequently encountered kinds of music today, yet few opportunities exist to study it in an academic setting. Moreover, the interactive and chance-based nature of the medium challenges conventional modes of analysis.

In spring 2023, Dr. Alison Altstatt offered a collaborative independent study course: Ludomusicology: Studies in Video Game Music, in response to student request. Participants took on the challenge of studying video game music guided by the questions:

**What methods are most effective for analyzing and interpreting video game music?**

**How does video game music impact the player’s experience?**

Through reading and discussing literature in the field of Ludomusicology and attending the North American Conference on Video Music, participants developed an analytical and conceptual toolkit for describing the intersection of video game music and the player experience.

Participants presented their own research at a dedicated poster session at the UNI INSPIRE conference, demonstrating to the campus community the academic value of engaging in video game-focused musicological research. The class culminated in the preparation of a museum exhibit designed in collaboration with Jess Cruz, Exhibit Coordinator and Outreach Educator for the UNI Museum at Rod Library. The exhibit will remain on display the Russell Hall lobby throughout fall 2023.

By studying music of great personal significance, participants became familiar with musicological concepts and analytical techniques specific to video game music, as well as those with wider applicability. The class also provided the opportunity to study the music of contemporary East Asian composers, who are well represented in the medium.

*Editor’s note: thank you to Alison Altstatt for her contribution of this article.*

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**Galyen Elected to American Bandmasters Association**

UNI School of Music faculty artist Danny Galyen has been elected to the prestigious American Bandmasters Association (ABA). Galyen serves as UNI’s Director of Bands and conductor of the UNI Wind Ensemble. The official induction ceremony will take place in Washington D.C. in March 2024, where Galyen will be invited to conduct a performance with one of the nation’s premiere military bands.

“I’m honored to have been elected to the ABA, which is a celebrated organization I have admired for years,” he said. “I am also thankful to have the opportunity to work with the incredible students in the UNI Wind Ensemble, who have such a great dedication to our work and music.”

Founded in 1929, the ABA honors outstanding achievement by invitation to membership and strives to enhance the concert band and its music by example and leadership. The invitation-only professional organization’s membership is comprised of only 300 band conductors and composers in the USA and Canada. Election to the American Bandmasters Association involves a highly competitive and robust evaluation process that requires being nominated and sponsored by several current members, submission of performance recordings and a review of professional contributions. Seventy minutes of recordings of the UNI Wind Ensemble under Galyen’s direction were evaluated by the ABA Membership.

“We in the UNI School of Music are all very proud of Dr. Galyen and his many accomplishments,” said Jeffrey Funderburk, director of the School of Music. “His election to the American Bandmasters Association is another validation of his excellence as a conductor and music educator.”
The UNI School of Music proudly recognizes last year’s competition winners and acknowledges the many honors and awards that our students have earned.

Trumpet student **Megan Bennett** was chosen as one of only three college-level winners at the recent Fort Dodge Symphony Concerto Competition.

Second year graduate student in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, **Heather Gillis** successfully presented at the 2023 Music Teachers National Association Conference in March. Heather was selected out of a large pool of professionals in the field of Piano Pedagogy.

**Morgan List**, first year graduate student in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, has been named the only recipient of the Lynn Freeman Olson Piano Pedagogy Scholarship, sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs. This is a national award of $5000 awarded every two years to an outstanding student who demonstrates a desire to continue their higher education degrees in the field of Piano Pedagogy, and excellence in teaching and scholarship.

In March, the Emerging Artist Competition was held live in the Gallagher Bluedorn Great Hall. **Turner Sperry**, cello, was awarded the top honor of the Charles and Marleta Matheson Award. Sperry is a junior at UNI and is majoring in cello performance. He has studied under cellists such as Scott Sund, Hannah Holman, Neal Cary, Julian Schwarz and now with Isidora Nojkovic. Turner is currently the cellist, event coordinator, treasurer and co-marketer for his quartet, the Petrichord String Quartet, and regularly subs in orchestras as well as performs throughout the Midwest area.

**Jamie Knox**, mezzo-soprano, claimed the Myron and Ruth Russell Award and the People’s Choice Award at the Emerging Artist Competition. Knox is a mezzo-soprano in her third-year as a vocal music education major at UNI, and studies in the voice studio of Dr. John Hines. Jamie sings in Concert Chorale and Cantorei. Most recently she has appeared as a soloist in “Ordo Virtutum” by Hildegard of Bingen with UNI’s Cantorei, and as 2nd Lady in scenes from Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” with UNI Opera.

**Emily Paul**, flute, won the Curtis-Fullerton Award. Emily is majoring in flute performance and performing arts management. Currently, she’s playing in the Symphony Orchestra and the Flute Choir at UNI. Emily is a member of the School of Music Student Advisory Board, the Librarian for the Orchestra, the Lead Peer Educator for the School of Music, a Music Ambassador, and has taught flute privately for over five years. In summer 2022, she worked with the Des Moines Symphony as their Development Intern. Emily was also selected as the Presser Scholar Award winner for 2023. The Presser Foundation supports undergraduate students across the country committed to advancing music through their studies. The prestigious Presser Scholar Award is granted to an outstanding music major in their junior year. Selected by the music faculty, the Award recipient shows a high level of academic and musical accomplishment and embodies the qualities of leadership and citizenship. The Presser Scholar is one who has grown individually and who has contributed earnestly to the success of the School of Music.
School of Music Earns High Honors

Micaiah Krutsinger is a Choral Music Education major with a minor in Social and Emotional Learning from Forest City, Iowa. Micaiah studies voice with Jeff Brich. He has performed with UNI Concert Chorale, UNI Singers, UNI Varsity Glee Club, as well as the community chorus Metropolitan Chorale. His favorite course at UNI so far is Elementary Methods with Dr. Michelle Swanson.

During his time at UNI, Micaiah has been actively involved in the Northern Iowa Student Government, where he served as Senator for the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences, Student Body Vice President, and will assume his role as newly elected Student Body President in 2023-24. He has also been active in the American Choral Directors Association, the Spectrum Project and serves as choral ensembles and conducting representative on the School of Music Student Advisory Board.

“I think that my favorite part about studying at UNI has been how supportive the faculty and staff are here at UNI,” Micaiah said, “They really do create a relationship with students that helps us succeed and pursue our goals. Without their support and encouragement, I do not see myself being where I am today.” Micaiah was selected to be featured as one of a small group of UNI students to be a part of filming the UNI episode of Amazon’s series “The College Tour.” “The College Tour was an amazing experience of mine that I will not forget,” Micaiah said. “Getting to highlight areas that I like here at UNI with other Panthers that love UNI was really exciting. I was able to see other people’s perspectives of our campus and feel that Panther energy through a television screen.”

After graduating from UNI, Micaiah hopes to teach music in the Des Moines area and possibly go to graduate school for Educational Policy and/or Educational Leadership.

Congratulations on your outstanding achievements at UNI and best of luck in your future, Micaiah!

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 & Scholars Program at UNI. The Honors & Scholars Program at UNI aims to offer a more challenging, rewarding and engaging experience to UNI students, through advanced coursework in liberal arts and other curriculum as well as a final senior thesis/project. The School of Music is proud to congratulate our Honors & Scholars Program students and those who have earned a place on the Dean’s List or as a Presidential Scholar this year. Scholars are as follow:

**Honors & Scholars Program Students:**

**Presidential Scholars:**
Jetta Colsch, Emma Gardner, Alayna Ringsby, Dora Roorda and Abby Wendland.

The School of Music would also like to congratulate the School of Music students who appeared on the fall 2022 and spring 2023 Dean’s List. To be included on the list, a student must have earned a grade point average of 3.5 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!

Editor’s note: thank you to Erik Rohde, Heather Peyton, Andrea Johnson, Brenda Hackenmiller and Micaiah Krutsinger for their help with and contributions to this article and the Student Awards and Spotlight.
UNI Opera presented the world premiere performances of the newly-commissioned opera “The Beehive” in spring 2023. Performances were held on March 30 and 31 in Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall on the UNI campus. The production featured the UNI Opera Ensemble under the direction of Richard Gammon, director, and Korey Barrett, vocal coach, and also featured the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra led by Erik Rohde, conductor.

“The Beehive” was created by New York City artists, composer Jorge Sosa and librettist Melisa Tien. The University of Northern Iowa opera program, directed by Gammon, commissioned this new piece that, as Sosa says, “takes place in the hottest hair salon in Black Hawk County. This new opera is filled with pop music references, Latin rhythms, catchy arias, and plenty of trash talk!” The work was created specifically for UNI graduate students.

“The Beehive” is loosely based on Gogol’s “The Overcoat.” The central character, Abby, struggles to find her identity within a hairstyling community of small-town America which is currently facing a crisis. Joy, laughter and tears abound in this contemporary dark comedy.

Sosa and Tien were both on campus to work with the performers leading up to the premiere, including visiting for a workshop and read through in the fall semester, and also presented a talk back with audience members following the March 30 performance.

Graduate student Gabrielle Flannery, who performed the role of Abby in the premiere production, said “Each performance I have been a part of at UNI has challenged me in new ways and ‘The Beehive’ was no different. Participating in the creation of a new opera is not a common experience and it is rarer still for the performers to have influence in the creation of a libretto. ‘The Beehive’ was a special production for myself and my castmates to participate in because our experiences and turns of phrases were integrated into the opera, bringing small pieces of our culture into the operatic world. Our cast had the opportunity to learn the process of bringing a show to life from the first libretto read all the way to the final performance. This experience, assembled by our director, Richard Gammon, was incredibly valuable because we originated roles, we worked with an orchestra and conductor, this opera challenged conventional opera stereotypes, and both cast and crew formed relationships with artists outside our ordinary circles. I have become better equipped to enter the world of performance and have become a stronger singer, actress, and dancer because of ‘The Beehive.’”

Editor’s note: thank you to Richard Gammon and Gabbi Flannery for their assistance with this article.
We love to learn about and highlight the exciting and unique paths that our alumni take in their careers and **Bonnie Alger** (UNI M.M. ’10) is a perfect example of a remarkable musical journey.

UNI School of Music alumna Bonnie Alger knew from a young age she was interested in singing and playing a musical instrument. She is now the first female Officer in Charge of The United States Army Chorus, which is part of The United States Army Band in Washington, D.C.

“Talking really privileged to be here,” Alger said. “I work with really wonderful people every day. The United States Army Chorus is comprised of extremely talented, intelligent musicians who care about music-making at the highest level and care about their country.” Alger said her primary responsibility with The United States Army Chorus is “to ensure the Chorus’ music readiness” to support senior government and military leadership.

Band officers also have a number of non-musical responsibilities, Alger said, that are often related to the operation and overall well-being of the unit. Regarding her new position, Alger said she’s coming into the Army Chorus at “a really great and really important time in its history.” She said the Army Chorus has existed for 66 years and has gone through a variety of changes over the years in terms of the configurations of voices and the type of repertoire that they sing.

Alger plays the violin and sings mezzo-soprano, though conducting has been her main focus for several years. She described conducting as a combination of all the things she likes about music and said it adds a teaching, coaching and leadership component.

Alger attended Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in music in 2006. She enrolled as a graduate student at UNI and earned a master’s degree in conducting in 2010. While at UNI, Alger’s primary teacher was Rebecca Burkhardt. She also studied conducting with Danny Galyen, and studied violin with Frederick Halgedahl. In addition to performing with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Alger also played in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls and Dubuque Symphony Orchestras.

After UNI, Bonnie attended the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California, where she earned a Master of Arts degree in teaching music. Following her time in Los Angeles, Alger moved back to Iowa for a year where she directed a youth orchestra and a church choir, sang in regional choirs and played the violin in a few regional orchestras. She received an opportunity to move to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, where she taught middle school music for two years. She returned to the United States to earn her Doctorate of Musical Arts in conducting at the University of Maryland. It was while pursuing her doctorate in Maryland that Alger decided to audition for The United States Army Band program and join The U.S. Army.

She was motivated to apply to become an officer in The United States Army Band program because she had several colleagues and classmates who were auditioning for full-time military band positions as they were graduating with their respective degrees. “I thought it’s really great they get to serve their country and they also get to play music full-time, which they are trained for and they love,” Alger said, “so I decided to see what the military bands offer as far as conducting was concerned… and that’s when I discovered that The U.S. Army held auditions for conductors.”

Over a two-day audition process, Alger said applicants are tested on their written music theory, aural skills, sight-singing and their ability to sing or play their major instrument. There is also a conducting component where applicants work with the concert band for either The United States Army Band or The United States Army Field Band, The United States Army Chorus or The United States Army Soldiers’ Chorus. A spoken interview with the audition panel is held at the end of the audition.

Alger auditioned for The United States Army Band program in May of 2017, and was offered a position as an Army Band Officer the same day. She joined the army in October of 2018, and four years later was transferred to Fort Myer and selected to lead The United States Army Chorus. She is one of only two women among the 24 commissioned band officers across The U.S. Army, and the first to lead the prestigious chorus. In April 2023, Alger was promoted from First Lieutenant to Captain and completed her first mission leading the Ceremonial Band at a funeral for a retired Major General in Arlington National Cemetery on April 11. She conducted her first concert as Captain as part of an all-women conducting team on April 18 at Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexandria.

“We’re proud to congratulate Bonnie on her extraordinary accomplishments and look forward to cheering her on in her future endeavors!”
Going Places

UNI Music Grads

Our recent graduates are doing amazing things! Many are continuing on to further study, while others have already assumed teaching or other professional positions throughout Iowa, and as far away as South Carolina and Italy. We are so proud of all that these students are achieving and we wanted to share some of the most recent news with you.

Moving on to further study:

Foteini Angeli, M.M. ‘22, pursuing a D.M.A. in conducting at the University of Nebraska

Ricky Latham, B.M. ‘22, pursuing an M.M. in clarinet performance at Bowling Green State University

Joley Seitz, B.M. ’22, pursuing an M.M. in voice performance at UNI

Molly Thomas, M.M. ’22, pursuing a D.M.A. in piano performance and pedagogy at the University of South Carolina

Music Education:

Jack Dunning, B.M.E. ’22, teaches band and jazz at Clinton Middle School

Abby Flint, B.M.E. ’22, teaches general music at Edgewood Colesburg Elementary School

Ellie Hahn, B.M.E. ’22, teaches orchestra at Central Middle School

Madeline Marsh, B.M.E. ’22, teaches K-12 vocal music in Dunkerton Community School District

Greg Novey, B.M.E. ’22, is the 5th-12th grade band director at North Linn

Luke Sanders, M.M. ’22, teaches at Wartburg College and UNI

Irene Swanson, B.M.E. ’22, teaches 5th grade band and 1st-5th grade general music at Windom Area Elementary in Windom, Minnesota

Colton Whetsone, B.M.E. ’20, will move from Clinton Middle School to Winterset Middle School where he will teach 5th and 6th grade band

Music Industry Professionals, Interns and Award Recipients:

Mackenzie Dugger, B.M. ‘20, graduated with an M.M. in flute performance from the University of Kansas; won principal flute with the Salina Symphony Orchestra

Jovon Eborn, M.M. ’22, is the Company Coordinator with the Des Moines Metro Opera

Gabi Flannery, current M.M. student, sang in masterclass with Renée Flemming, June 2022; will sing the role of Musetta in La Bohème this summer at Bay View Music Festival in Michigan

Leah Gibbons, B.M.E. ’22, received the Purple and Gold Award for Meritorious Achievement

Lauren Leman, current M.M. student, sang the role of La zia principessa in Suor Angelica with the Bel Canto in Italy program, and was selected to participate in the Young Artist Program with Cedar Rapids Opera

Emily Paul, B.A., B.M. ’24, was the recipient of the CHAS-HFA Clippinger-Ferrier Scholarship

Joley Seitz, B.M. ’22, sang in a 2022 masterclass with Renée Flemming, and received the Purple and Gold Award for Conspicuous Achievement

Athena-Sadé Whiteside, M.M. ‘21, was selected to participate in the Young Artist Program with Cedar Rapids Opera

Brandon Whitish, M.M. ‘22, was selected to participate in the Young Artist Program with Cedar Rapids Opera

Mason Bush B.M.E. ‘25, Nic Englin B.M.E. ‘22, Calista Rowe B.M.E. ‘25, and Emalee Warren B.M.E. ‘24, were recipients of the CHAS-HFA David Wright Sands Scholarships
Very few faculty members at UNI can say that their academic adventure at UNI began at the age of four! Michelle Swanson is one of the few with that elite legacy, including 26 years of teaching, over a decade of graduate studies, four years of undergraduate education and many years as a student at Malcolm Price Laboratory School on the UNI campus.

“I always enjoy faculty meetings where we are asked to share how long we’ve been at UNI,” Swanson shares, “Every once in a while, I like to count all the way back to age four – which makes people really wonder!”

Dr. Swanson teaches music education courses in the School of music and thoroughly enjoys teaching the pre-service music educators. “The students are why I love my job so much. It is amazing to consider how many current music educators throughout Iowa - and beyond - were students at UNI. I really feel like our graduates make such a huge impact, and that means the world to me,” Swanson states.

Swanson teaches Elementary General Music Methods, Piano Beyond Proficiency for the Choral Classroom, Choral Methods and Materials, Choral Methods for Instrumental Majors, Introduction to Music Education, Level III Field Experience, Soundscapes, and also supervises student teachers in elementary general music and secondary choral music placements. She is also an academic advisor for the upperclassmen choral, wind, brass, percussion and string music education students.

Beyond the classroom, Swanson offers professional development opportunities for elementary music teachers each year. Four workshops are hosted at UNI for music teachers to attend and grow their craft. Throughout the last 25 years, approximately 2,000 music educators and music education students have attended the on-campus events.

While at UNI, Swanson has served on numerous committees and also as the faculty sponsor for many student organizations. She currently supervises the Peer Educators for the School of Music who mentor underclassmen music majors at UNI. She has served on the Educator Preparation Senate for over 20 years, and most recently has supervised Sigma Alpha Iota and the SALT student ministry. Beyond campus, Swanson is currently a mentor chairperson for Iowa Alliance for Arts Education and is on the board of the Iowa Music Educators Association, our state chapter of NAfME. Locally, Swanson is president-elect for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Swanson’s career at UNI began with teaching elementary general music at Malcolm Price Laboratory School (MPLS) as the elementary music teacher. “Those were some of my greatest years of teaching,” Swanson shares. “What made those years so special were teaching my nephew, niece, daughter and son. That was an unbelievable teaching opportunity.” Over the years, however, Swanson shares that all of her students have come to feel like family.

Before teaching at MPLS, Swanson taught elementary general music in the Cedar Falls Community School district for seven years at Southdale, Valley Park, and North Cedar elementary schools. She now frequently accompanies at the local schools and enjoys assisting music teachers in the district. She has conducted numerous elementary, middle and high school honor choirs throughout Iowa and the Midwest over the years. Swanson conducted the UNI Children’s Choir from 2003 until 2020, and conducted the All-Iowa “Opus” Honor Choir in 2013. Swanson founded and conducted the Sturgis Falls Children’s Choir from 1993 to 2005, and was awarded a Gold Star Teaching Award in 1996.

Swanson received her B.M.E., M.M., and Ed.D degrees from UNI. While an undergraduate student at UNI, Swanson studied piano with Howard Aibel and voice with Leslie Morgan. She participated in Wind Symphony, Orchestra, Concert Chorale, Clarinet Choir and Percussion Ensembles. Swanson was the accompanist for the Varsity Men’s Glee Club from 1989 to 1992, and often accompanied other ensembles and soloists. Growing up, she studied violin at the UNI Suzuki School with Martha Holvik and Therese Fetter.

Swanson’s husband, Chad, is an attorney and they have two adult children Elizabeth and Matthew, and a dog, Larry. The Swanson family enjoys traveling, board games, outdoor activities and time with extended family.

Michelle is looking forward to the future as her lifelong adventure at UNI is soon coming to an end. The 2023-24 academic year will be her final year of active teaching at UNI. “I knew that God was telling me it is time to be done,” states Swanson. “Taking Emeritus status will be my opportunity to spend more time with my family and volunteering and serving the community. I look forward to less responsibility and more relaxation.” Swanson reflects on her teaching career at UNI very fondly and is looking forward to one, final extraordinary year.

Editor’s note: thank you to Michelle Swanson for her help with this article.
Faculty Activities

**Alison Altstatt**, associate professor of musicology/music history
- Taught two new classes: “Chant from Manuscript” and “Ludomusicology: Studies in Video Game Music” and collaborated with Dr. John Wiles and Cantorei in a performance of Hildegard von Bingen’s “Ordo Virtutum.”
- Presented the papers “Sonic Pilgrimage in Reginold of Eichstätt’s Trilingual Prosula Terminus et idem interminus” to the North American Academy of Liturgy and “The Cantrix at Work in Anna von Buchwald’s Buch im Chor” to the International Congress on Medieval Studies.
- Taught chant performance workshop for the Institute of Sacred Music, Saint Meinrad’s Archabbey, Indiana.

**Matthew Andreini**, instructor of percussion
- Presented with UNI Taiko at the opening ceremony/keynote address for IMEA Conference.
- Appeared as featured soloist with both Waterloo and Cedar Falls Municipal Bands.
- Premiered “Damocles” for percussion duo by composer Steve Snowden.

**Ann Bradfield**, associate professor of saxophone
- Performed as a featured soloist at the North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.
- Performed movements from Joel Love’s “Solace” in concert with the UNI Wind Ensemble on campus and at the Iowa Bandmaster’s Association Convention in Des Moines, Iowa.
- Performed Milhaud’s “Le Creation du Monde” with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony.

**Michael Conrad**, assistant professor of jazz studies/music education
- Conducted a concert of 10 original works for jazz ensemble, including the premiere of a commissioned piece for the 3 O’Clock Jazz Band while in residency at the University of New Hampshire.
- Directed the Iowa All-State Jazz Band (4A) and presented/performed at the 2023 IBA Conference.
- Released a jazz trio album of original music called “Reconnect,” with performances at the Iowa City Jazz Festival, Noce (Des Moines), and several other venues.
Faculty Activities (continued)

Kevin Droé, associate professor of music in music education
- Hosted 2022 AmpCamp, our summer modern band camp for students ages 9-19.
- Coordinated the UNI Spectrum Project for their first in-person season since 2019.
- Received the Cedar Valley Non-profit Staff Leader. Award camp for students ages 9-19.

Danny Galyen, professor of music, director of bands
- Taught a conducting masterclass at the Academia Diesis in Valencia, Spain in January 2023.
- Elected to the American Bandmaster’s Association in March 2023 (see page 14 for more information).

Richard Gammon, director of opera
- Served as Stage Director for “An American Dream” at Opera Santa Barbara.
- Served as Stage Director for “Scalia/Ginsburg” at The Princeton Festival.
- Served as Stage Director for “La Cenerentola” at Opera Columbus.

Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet
- Performed two faculty recitals and played on Stephanie Ycaza’s faculty recital.
- Performed as Principal Trumpet in all wcfsymphony and brass quintet performances
- Performed with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, American Vintage Jazz Orchestra, Five Season’s Chamber Music Festival, and the Rodney Pierson Band.

Josh Graham, instructor of percussion
- Premiered new solo and chamber works by Charles Peck, Michael Conrad, Griffin Candey and David Gillingham at performances in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Illinois and Michigan, with support from a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.
- Won the Principal Percussion position with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony.
- Presented masterclasses and presentations at the University of Delaware, Iowa State University and the Iowa Music Educators Conference.

Robin Guy, professor of piano
- Completed her final spring semester at UNI after 33 years to begin phased retirement in the fall; received honor for her skill and devotion after performing annually with the Solo Competition Winner at the Northern Festival of Bands for many years.
- Collaborated with nine students on their degree recitals, adjudicated IMTA District Auditions at NIACC and judged piano scholarship auditions for NAMTA.
- Recorded with alumna Dr. Nicole Molumby, flute professor at Boise State University, on two pieces for her next CD, including a trio commission.

Randall Harlow, associate professor of organ and music theory
- Recorded an innovative album, “Sonata quasi Coltrane,” on the ground-breaking hyperorgan at the Orgelpark in Amsterdam
- Presented a research paper, “Inertial Discourse in the Sociality of Gesture: Prolegomenon to a Sono-Kinesthetic Ethnography,” at the national conference of the Society for Ethnomusicology
- Appeared as artist-in-residence for the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition at the University of Chicago, premiering new works for organ with electronics in a solo concert.

Michelle Monroe, instructor of voice
- Performed as mezzo-soprano soloist in Mozart’s “Requiem” with the Rochester Symphony in Rochester, MN.
- Performed as mezzo-soprano soloist for the Christmas Vesper Concert in Imant Raminsh’s Magnificat with Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.
- Appeared as Dorabelle in Mozart’s “Così fan Tutte” with Music on Site, Inc. in Wichita, Kansas.

Erik Rohde, assistant professor of music, director of orchestral activities
- Performed concerts in Alba, Italy and Prague including the complete solo violin Sonatas and Partitas of Bach and a new work, “Betwixt Bach” by Elliott Miles McKinley in summer 2023.

Jon Schwabe, professor of theory and composition
- Celebrated the premiere of his work “I Became a Traveler in my Dream” by the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra on March 4, 2023. The piece was inspired by the poem “A Dog’s Diary” by poet Yang Chen, and conducted by Jason Weinberger.

Michelle Swanson, assistant professor of music education
- Conducted the UNI Middle School Treble Festival. Hosted more than 220 singers from across Iowa on campus and led the final concert in the Gallagher Bluedorn Great Hall.
- Hosted music education workshops for over 80 music educators and over 25 college student elementary/general music teachers in Iowa. The four workshops included Orff Schulwerk, movement, technology and programming.
- Conducted the 5th and 6th grade honor choir at ICDA in April, and the 7th and 8th grade honor choir at the River Valley Conference in October.

Anthony Williams, associate professor of trombone
- Performed Anthony Barfield’s “Red Sky” with the UNI Wind Ensemble during their May 2022 European Tour.
- Appeared in invited performances with two groups at the 2022 International Trombone Festival.
- Performed Michael Conrad’s “Concerto for Jazz Trombone” with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony.
On his first solo tour of Japan in 1985, ‘Pipers’ Magazine hailed Jeffrey Funderburk as the next international tuba virtuoso and his subsequent career has fulfilled much of this prediction. As a performer, recording artist and teacher, Funderburk established a career and performance style that has been described as eclectic.

His recordings include three solo tuba CDs ("Passages," "Journeys" and "Romantic Connections"), euphonium soloist with the wind orchestra of the "Franz Liszt" Music Academy in Budapest, Hungary (premier recording of Frigyes Hidas’ "Euphoniada"), and two CDs as a member of Symphonía, a professional tuba and euphonium ensemble.

Funderburk has performed with such orchestras as the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Opera Theatre and the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra under such noted conductors as Charles Dutoit, Mstislav Rostropovich and Günther Herbig. From 1989 to 2010, Funderburk served as principal tuba of the Cedar Rapids Symphony. As a chamber musician, Funderburk has performed extensively as a recitalist and as a member of the Detroit Brass Society, the Northern Brass Quintet, the Cedar Rapids Symphony Brass Quintet and the Südtiroler Blechblaserei Ensemble (Italy). In 1983, Jeffrey won the TUBA International Solo Competition.
Maddy Tarantelli

Maddy Tarantelli is the Instructor of Horn at UNI. Tarantelli has performed extensively with Utah Symphony and has performed with Ballet West, the Boise Philharmonic, Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and Fountain City Brass Band. She has previously held positions at Interlochen Arts Camp and Utah Valley University.

Tarantelli is a founding member of Trilogy Brass with Dr. JoDee Davis (UMKC) and Dr. Jennifer Oliverio (Missouri Western State University). Trilogy has performed recitals across the Midwest and at the International Women’s Brass Conferences. Tarantelli is an active contributor to the International Horn Society’s publication “The Horn Call,” International Symposia, and regional workshops. She has received grants from the American Scandinavian Foundation and UMKC Women’s Council. She is currently working on a book to be published by Mountain Peak Music. Since 2017, Tarantelli has served on the board of directors for Audition Mode Horn Seminar alongside Denise Tryon and Karl Pituch. She spent her summers teaching theory and performing with faculty ensembles at Interlochen Arts Camp from 2015-2017. She aged out of DCI in 2011 playing mellophone with the Glassmen Drum & Bugle Corps.

Tarantelli completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, a Master’s at the University of Miami, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education at Florida Gulf Coast University. She formally studied with Marty Hackleman, Sam Pilafian and Kirsten Bendixen-Mahoney. Additional major influences include Denise Tryon, Julie Landsman and Frøydis Ree Wekre.

Kathryn Smalley Saulsbury

Kathryn Smalley Saulsbury, mezzo-soprano and collaborative pianist, has been teaching and coaching singers and pianists for over 25 years. She has a broad background in opera theatre and coach- accompanying, and has performed extensively as a collaborative artist. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Northern Iowa, Kathryn worked as a coach-accompanist for Indianapolis Opera until she joined the faculty at Morningside University in 2004 and taught applied voice, vocal pedagogy, diction, and directed the Opera Theatre program. During her tenure at Morningside University, she became the founder and artistic director of the Morningside Institute for Performing Artists, a group of dedicated young professionals who performed across the region, and was the executive director for the Leo Kucinski Academy of Music. She also served as the president of both the Iowa Chapter of the National Teacher’s Association of Singing (NATS) and the Lewis and Clark Chapter of NATS, and served on the board of directors for the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra. In 2022, she performed with the Morningside University Choir for performances in Germany, Austria and Prague, which included an invited performance at the Dvořák Festival for an audience containing members of the Dvořák family.

Kathryn is currently an instructor of voice at the University of Northern Iowa where her father, David Smalley, previously held a position on the voice faculty for 35 years and her mother, Joan Smalley, often performed as a collaborative pianist. Kathryn earned both her B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Northern Iowa.

While we say “see you soon” to two remarkable faculty artists, we are excited to welcome six new faculty who begin their UNI journey this year.
Luke Sanders is in his first year as instructor of guitar at the University of Northern Iowa. Prior to UNI, Luke taught guitar and various courses and ensembles within the jazz curriculum at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Luke earned his undergraduate degree in Instrumental Music Education at Coe College in 2017. Luke later would go on to lead the jazz program and direct the 9th grade band at Waterloo West High School. Following his time at Waterloo West, Luke earned his Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy at UNI under the tutelage of Bob Dunn, Chris Merz and Mike Conrad.

An active performer, clinician and composer/arranger, Luke has been a staple in the Eastern Iowa Music scene for the past decade. Luke has performed with the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra and the Cedar Rapids-based Orchestra Iowa. Luke has also been a featured guest artist with multiple professional concert bands around Iowa presenting the stateside premieres of Mario Parizek's guitar concerto, "Fingerpick meets Blasmusik."

While at UNI, Luke’s student quintet, Bad News, earned a grant to record an album of all original music titled “We Get That a Lot.” Luke’s jazz performance experience has taken him around the Midwest in numerous acts as a bandleader and sideman. Luke has been on faculty for the KCCK Middle School Jazz Camp held at Kirkwood Community College since 2016. In addition to the KCCK camp, Luke has also served on staff at the Cedar Falls Summer Jazz camp and UNI’s own Amp Camp. When Luke is not surrounded by guitars and gear he loves to spend time at his home in Waterloo with his fiancé, Casey, and their chihuahua, Kiki.
Hailed by violinist James Ehnes as “mesmerizing,” Nash Ryder began playing violin at the age of seven. He went on to study with world-renowned artists and pedagogues Donald Weilerstein, Anait Arutunian, Ronald Copes, Frank Huang, Scott Flavin, Jan Mark Sloman and Robin Scott. He earned his B.M. and M.M. in violin performance from the Juilliard School and was the first student in the institution’s history to receive both undergraduate honors and an accelerated graduate degree. He later received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music.

Featured on the highly acclaimed NPR radio show “From the Top” in his youth, Nash has since performed in a wide variety of venues internationally and nationally, performing in festivals such as the Conservatoire Américain de Fontainebleau in France, the Lake District Music Festival in England, the Sarasota Music Festival, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Meadowmount School of Music and the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. He has been a featured soloist with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra, the New England String Ensemble, White Mountain Bach Festival Orchestra, the Frost Symphony Orchestra, I Solisti di Miami and the Colorado College SMF Orchestra. Nash has shared the stage with artists such as Josh Groban, Linda Eder, Joshua Bell, Itzhak Perlman, Joseph Silverstein, Ilya Kaler, Jeffrey Zeigler, and members of the Ying quartet, among many other artists. He has played under the batons of conductors Gerard Schwarz, Jeanette Sorrell, Gemma New, Michael Tilson Thomas, Joseph Colaneri, Pablo Heras-Casado, Alan Gilbert, Gianandrea Noseda, Thomas Adès, David Robertson, Matthias Pintscher, Jeffery Kahane and Scott Yoo. Additionally, he has worked closely with composers Michael Finnissy and Peter Maxwell-Davies on several of their pieces. His audiences have included Former President George H.W. Bush, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and Senator Susan Collins.

Dedicated to igniting positive social change through music, Nash co-leads a concert series each year in the Turks and Caicos Islands, bringing musicians and ensembles from around the world to perform in the Caribbean. The concerts support Ashley’s Learning Center, an independent therapy and education center for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Former rotating concertmaster and Teaching Artist of the New World Symphony, Ryder has also played with the Florida Orchestra, the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the Venice Symphony and the Punta Gorda Symphony. Nash spends his summers in Maine on the faculties of NEMC at the Snow Pond Center for the Arts and SummerKeys.

Brett Copeland is a tuba player, educator, composer and music technologist that holds the position of Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium at the University of Northern Iowa. He previously held the position of Adjunct Lecturer of Tuba and Euphonium at the University of Texas at Tyler while living in Dallas and teaching a private studio of low brass students. He’s maintained an active performance career playing with groups such as NewStream Brass, the Dallas Brass Band, Flower City Brass, Symphoria (Syracuse, NY), the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (Buffalo, NY), and has held the position of Principal Tuba with the Venice Symphony (FL), Ash Lawn Opera (VA), and the South Shore Symphony Orchestra (FL).

Brett’s artistic endeavors extend beyond performance, as he recently co-authored “The Creative Listener” with other members of NewStream Brass (Dakota Corbliss, Derek Ganong and Austin Seybert). The Creative Listener is an innovative method book aimed at providing a resource for music educators to teach audiation and improvisation concepts effectively. Furthermore, his passion for composition shines through his acoustic and electro-acoustic works such as “Yesterday, I Woke Up Sucking a Lemon,” featured on the album recorded by NewStream Brass in 2022, “Sorrowful Songs for bass clarinet and electronics” (arr. Copeland); “harbor” for bass clarinet, tuba, and electronics (both written for and premiered by Alexander W. Ravitz at the CMS South Central conference in spring ’23); and two original works for trombone, tuba, and electronics, written for and recorded by Austin Seybert also in the spring of ’23.

Brett earned a D.M.A. in Tuba Performance and Literature with a Certificate in Arts Leadership from the Eastman School of Music (’20) where he was a Teaching Assistant for both the Tuba Studio and the Eastman Audio Research Studio. His primary teachers have been Don Harry, Jay Hunsberger and Jeff Funderburk.

The School of Music wishes to congratulate Jeff and Bob on their retirement, and to welcome Brett, Brisa, Nash, Luke, Kathryn and Maddy!
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!

1950s
'56 Jere Graetz, B.A., M.A. ’68, Burnsville, Minnesota, taught for 40 years, mostly in elementary music. Jere also was in a men’s choir, church choir and bell choir until age 88.

1970s
'74 Bill Hesse, B.A., M.A. ’78, Bella Vista, Arizona, retired from public school teaching in 2009 and moved to Bella Vista, Arizona. He conducted the Bella Vista Men’s Chorus for five years, currently conducts the choir at First Presbyterian Church in Rogers, Arizona, and has a private voice studio. Since 2020, he has had high school students compete successfully at Arkansas NATS and in 2023, his students won both High School Classical Treble and High School Music Theatre Treble. His classical student is president of the Bentonville High Chamber Choir and a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. It’s been a good year!

1980s
'84 Karen (Norby) Fannin, B.M., Omaha, Nebraska, was named School of Music Director at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Karen is a Professor, Director of Bands, and conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting, instructs courses in music education, and provides leadership for all aspects of the UNO band program. She is an Edward Clark Diamond Professor of Music.

1990s
'93 Luke Miller, B.M., Ottumwa, is the director of bands at the Cardinal Community School District and has been teaching music for 23 years. He serves on the Iowa High School Music Associations adjudicator list and has been a judge at several events over the years. Miller performs as principal tubist for the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra and recently became manager of the newly formed Ottumwa Symphony Youth Philharmonic and the Ottumwa Symphony Youth Orchestra.

2000s
'96 Karen (Norby) Fannin, B.M., Omaha, Nebraska, was named School of Music Director at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Karen is a Professor, Director of Bands, and conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting, instructs courses in music education, and provides leadership for all aspects of the UNO band program. She is an Edward Clark Diamond Professor of Music.

2010s
We were sad to hear of the passing of our musical colleagues and past graduates. We send our sympathies to their families.

‘42 Eleanor (Sparks) Heisey, B.A., died 5/3/2022 in Raytown, Missouri.
‘53 Jeanette Tisdale, B.A., died 4/12/2023 in Grinnell, Iowa.
‘55 Laurens Blankers, B.A., died 10/25/2022 in Owatonna, Minnesota.
‘57 Janet Dubois, B.A., died 12/16/2022 in Gaffney, South Carolina.
‘64 Donald Stine, B.A., died 1/8/2023 in Mount Vernon, Iowa.
‘70 Russell Schubert, B.A., died 9/16/2022 in Britt, Iowa.
‘78 Ronald Oppedahl, B.M., died 7/19/2022 in San Pedro, California.
‘78 Joyce Spande, M.M., died 5/9/2023 in Brea, California.
‘85 Alan Moore, B.M., died 11/27/2022 in Bettendorf, Iowa.
‘86 Deborah (Gaulrapp) Hare, B.M., died 10/14/2022 in Naperville, Illinois.
‘00 Meridle (Williams) Burger, B.M., died 05/28/2023 in Des Moines, Iowa.
‘01 Michael Jensen, M.M., died 9/30/2022 in Waverly, Iowa.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Amy Mohr for assistance in gathering information for this and the entire Alumni News article.

Bill Shepherd, conductor, educator, performer and professor emeritus of music at UNI, passed away at the age of 89 on August 29, 2023 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Shepherd received his degrees from Ohio University in Athens. He served as band director for several Ohio high school bands, taught at Bowling Green (Ohio) University and was director of bands at Finlay (Ohio) College. As a performer, Bill toured with the Tommy Dorsey/Warren Covington Orchestra, recorded for Decca Records and performed with the Boston Pops Orchestra, Bob Hope, Johnny Mathis, Ella Fitzgerald, Sammy Davis Jr., Doc Severinsen and other notable artists, as well as playing in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra from 1976-2014.

Bill started the Bill Shepherd Big Band in 1979. The band quickly became the premier Big Band throughout Northeast Iowa, releasing four albums including two Christmas albums featuring vocalist, Nola Shepherd Quealy, Bill’s youngest daughter.

He also served as conductor of the Waterloo Municipal Band for 37 years, retiring after the 2018 season. In 1976, Bill joined UNI as associate professor of music and conductor of symphonic and marching bands. Although officially retired for years, Shepherd continued to travel “river to river” across Iowa to observe student music teachers for the School of Music.

Bill once said, “I’ve met so many wonderful musicians and had such wonderful experiences as a conductor.” All who worked with Bill know that he brought a special magic to the podium, to every stage he graced, and to every room he entered. He will be deeply missed.
Emeritus Faculty Activities

The School of Music is always excited to hear from our exceptional retired faculty and staff. 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 with an update. “On March 23, I gave a presentation on Zoom for an international meeting of scholars sponsored by the Guitar Foundation of America. My edition of the piano-vocal score of the collaborative opera (including music by Mozart) “Der Stein der Weisen” (Vienna, 1790) was published by A-R Editions in November, 2022. “Der Stein der Weisen” was performed at the Parktheater in Augsburg, Germany by the period instrument orchestra Hofkapelle München on December 10, 2022, with some outstanding international singers including the tenor Michael Schade.

I have also been serving as a peer reviewer for submissions to the journal “Eighteenth-Century Music” (Cambridge University Press), and have been consulting with the Mozarteum on the forthcoming New Koechel Catalogue of Mozart’s music. My out-of-print book “Dance Music from the Ballets de cour 1575-1651” (Pendragon Press, 1994) will be republished by the Mellon Press. I contributed to the book “Los manuscritos de guitarra del Fondo Manuela Vázquez-Barros de la Biblioteca Lázaro Galdiano,” edited by Jesús Saiz Huedo (Madrid, Fundación Lázaro Galdiano, Asociación Cultural More Hispano, 2022). I am currently working on a research article to be published online (in Spanish) in the near future.”

Bruce Chidester – Bruce wrote to share, “Another year and much the same from the Chidesters! Karen is filling her weeks playing bridge in several groups, helping to teach card making on the ranch and planning our next trip. My schedule is the same; hosting two websites trumpetensemblemusic.com and the trumpetblog.com (rated “Best Trumpet Blog on the Web” for the past six years). Our other lives are spent with our children, Scott, Kari and David, and watching our grandkids with their activities. My doctor visits have suddenly diminished as I have finally recovered from numerous issues. Looks as if I have a few more decades to go. I never wanted to be an old trumpet player and now ‘I are one.’ The very best to all our friends and students around the globe.”

Randy Hogancamp – We heard from Randy this summer, with a busy and fun-filled update. “The first bit of news is that Jane retired from almost 40 years of teaching this past June!” Randy said. “Now that we are both ‘free to roam’ our schedules have gotten both more relaxed and busier! We spend a week or two at a time split between our Chicago condo and our Cedar Falls home. Taking care of two places takes time as well as working on improvements to each, but it’s at our pace and choice! Last July, Jane rode and I drove the support vehicle for a few days of RAGBRAI, always a fun experience to see the state and meet people! In August, we spent some time in Palo Alto, California, visiting her sister as well as doing some ‘touristy’ things. October found us in Madrid, Spain, spending time with Jeff Smith.

We also managed day trips to see the sights in Toledo and to Segovia to meet up with a recent UNI grad and former WADE/Taiko member Lexie Klein! During one of our weeks in Chicago, we attended “The Lion King” to hear former student Phil Martin playing drums in the pit for the show. He has been on tour with them since 2017 (minus the COVID break).

We returned to Palo Alto in April for another visit and more sightseeing, and in July we’ll travel to the New Hampshire Music Festival (NHMF) to hear Susan Rider perform the Haydn Trumpet Concerto in honor of Keith Johnson. Jane and I spent 17 summers in New Hampshire playing with the NHMF, but it’s been fourteen years since our last gig there! As soon as we get back to Iowa it will be time for RAGBRAI again! We spend the in-between times with family and looking in on old friends. There doesn’t seem to be an end to the things that need our attention! It’s true when they say you are busier in retirement than ever! The difference is that you can choose to do it now or later!”

Alan Schmitz – Alan Schmitz is pleased to announce the January 2023 release of “ACE Composers II: Further Developments by Alan, Christopher, and Eric Schmitz,” a recording of original compositions published on the PARMA Ravello Records Label. Of special interest to UNI folks is “The Lamplighter,” a work by Eric that features UNI’s Jazz Band One (directed by Chris Merz) with a piano solo by fellow Emeritus professor Bob Washut. This piece, and the rest of the recordings on the release, can be purchased from the PARMA site as well as other outlets including Amazon, Spotify, etc.
Pam Griffel was born in Iowa Falls and raised in Ackley, Iowa where she attended Ackley High School. Early on, it was apparent that she was a gifted pianist. After her sophomore year, her high school teacher recommended that she study under Jvone Maxwell, a piano professor at SCI, State College of Iowa (now UNI). Pam remembers knocking on her office door, and that Jvone took one look at her and told her that she didn’t have room for one more student and to go down the hall to Joyce Gault.

Pam’s first meeting with Joyce was a little unnerving. Joyce had her play and accepted her as her student but made her buy all the sheet music and was very specific in what she expected – there would be “no fooling around.” According to Pam, Joyce was an incredible teacher. “She was a very disciplined teacher and that was what I needed then. She was meticulous at teaching me every aspect of performance, playing, stage presence and engaging the audience, down to walking on stage to the piano, taking a bow and looking at the audience. She made me do it over and over again until I had it right.” Even as a high school student, Joyce had Pam performing immediately in classes and with the UNI orchestra under the direction of Myron Russell. Pam took lessons from Joyce the final two years of high school and then her freshman and sophomore years at SCI. Seeing Pam’s talent continue to grow, Joyce wrote a letter of recommendation to Indiana University professor, Menahem Pressler, a world-renowned pianist with the Beaux Arts Trio, to accept Pam into his program. Pam then studied under Professor Pressler and received her B.M. in 1968 and M.M. in 1969. She earned a rare and coveted Performer’s Certificate from the School of Music with unanimous approval from the piano faculty. Through all this, Pam stayed in close contact with Joyce.

Following graduation from Indiana, Pam taught three years each at St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana and the University of Kansas before heading to Northwestern University to work on her doctorate. After one year, she decided to take a break and moved back to Cedar Falls. It was here that she renewed an old friendship with Laverne “Buzz” King, someone she had known since age 16. They were married in 1984 and moved to a farm in Geneva, Iowa where Pam continues to live today. Being back in Iowa, Pam came to Cedar Falls monthly for a haircut. Each time, she made it a point to visit with Joyce up until Joyce’s death in 2018.

Giving back: Getting re-connected with UNI as both a GBPAC volunteer usher and SOM donor has enriched Pam’s life and provided her with the opportunity to give back to UNI. She provides funding for graduate students in the piano pedagogy program each year and has made provisions in her will to endow piano pedagogy graduate assistantships and establish a significant endowment for music faculty development. “I feel blessed to have had Joyce Gault come into my life and remain a mentor to me for so many years. I am in total awe of UNI’s piano faculty, which speaks volumes about the quality of the School of Music here - that it can attract such world class performers and teachers. It gives me so much joy to be able to invest in UNI’s development of future generations of musicians and music teachers with my estate gift. Society needs the arts for the sake of our community’s quality of life. I encourage all of you to do something similar for a program or organization that has made your life better.”

Editors note: thank you to Dan Breitbach for his assistance with this article.

The School of Music is thrilled to announce that we have received a very generous gift to create an endowed distinguished professorship position in piano. Andrea Johnson, assistant professor of piano and director of the piano pedagogy program, assumed the Mildred M. Anderegg Distinguished Professorship of Piano on July 1, 2023.

The late Mildred Anderegg was a 1933 music education graduate of Iowa State Teachers College (ISTC, now UNI). A native of rural West Bend, Iowa, she was the first in her family to receive a baccalaureate degree. Her interest in music may have started with her maternal grandparents, who had a piano in their 1875 Millville, IA home.

All four of their children played the piano into adulthood. In turn, Mildred’s parents similarly encouraged her. Her West Bend high school music teacher suggested that she pursue a music degree at ISTC. Her doing so shows the influence a music teacher can have. In her life after college graduation, Mildred valued her ISTC degree and was quietly proud of her alma mater. She used her skill as a pianist in teaching, various community service activities, and raising her family.

This endowment honors her memory and is being funded by her son, William Lee.
Join us for the UNI School of Music’s 42nd annual Scholarship Benefit Concert

Friday, September 29, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Live on the Gallagher Bluedorn main stage

We’re thrilled to welcome you back to the Gallagher Bluedorn for the 42nd Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert: All of Us! We’re planning an evening of exceptional performances by UNI faculty and students, featuring a wide range of works, composers and performers aimed at truly capturing the uniquely collaborative and engagement-driven spirit of the School of Music.

The concert will include performances by the UNI Wind Ensemble, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Suzuki School, UNI Opera, Jazz Band One and Concert Chorale, with featured faculty artists Korey Barrett and Sean Botkin.

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

Becoming a Special Donor

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 tickets 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.

To become a special donor, contact the School of Music office #115 Rus sel Hall by calling (319) 273-2024 or visit music.uni.edu/sbc.

The final date for adding names to the special donor section of the acknowledgement pages of the benefit concert virtual program is Friday, September 15, 2023.

Donor Categories

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All contributions and ticket costs for the Scholarship Benefit Concert are tax deductible.
Thank you to our donors
from the 2022 Scholarship Benefit Concert

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William & Mary Shepherd
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Mike & Rita Waggoner
Lee & Elizabeth Weimer
A look back at our visiting artists

This was a 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 2022**
- Stiletto Brass
- Anne Laver, organ
- Todd Van Keerix, piano
- Karel Keldermans, carillon
- Francine Peterson, bassoon
- Artu Duo
- Ashley Killam, trumpet
- Transient Canvas

**Calypsus Brass**
- Alex Aldridge, guitar
- Megan Grey, lecturer
- Rawlins Trio
- Hands of Time
- Moreau | VanTuinen Duo
- Jason Hausback, trombone
- Jorge Sosa, composer
- Melisa Tien, librettist
- Gryphon Trio

**Spring 2023**
- Colere Quartet
- Céline Pellmont Guerin, conductor
- Reginald McDonald, conductor
- Linda Huck, conductor
- Anat Cohen, clarinet, saxophone
- Ensemble Dal Niente
- Chen Yi, composer

**)— Betsy Cook, conductor
- Jeremy Wilson, trombone
- Iowa Guitar Quartet
- Kristín Jónína Taylor, piano
- Stacy Wilson Miller, saxophone
- Rhonda Sider Edgington, organ
- Carolyn Koebel, percussion
- Zoran Jakovcic, viola

Guest artist funds for 2022-23 were supported in part or in full by the Joyce Gault Piano Concert Series Fund, the Meryl Norton Hearst Visiting Artist Series, the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund, the Howard and Mary Easter Quasi-Endowment, the Charles and Marleta Matheson Endowed Scholarship/Artists Fund, the Beach Guest Artist Fund, the Florence Christianson Scholarship, the Pine Family Music Education 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.
2023-24 Spotlight Series Performances

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band
Danny Galyen & Justin Mertz, conductors
Thursday, September 21, 2023
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One & Jazz Band Two
Christopher Merz & Michael Conrad, directors
Friday, October 6, 2023
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Erik Rohde, conductor
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Choirs
John Wiles, conductor
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One
Christopher Merz, director
Friday, April 12, 2024
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Wind Ensemble
Danny Galyen, conductor
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band Two
Michael Conrad, director
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Symphonic Band
Justin Mertz, conductor
Monday, April 22, 2024
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Erik Rohde, conductor
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Tickets for individual concerts will be $15 for adults, $5 for non-UNI students (with school ID). UNI School of Music is proud to offer free admission for UNI students with a current ID, thanks to the Panther Pass program.

Tickets are available by calling (319) 273-4TIX or visiting unitix.uni.edu. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. For more information, call (319) 273-2028.
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 it to go. Here is a sampling of opportunities in need of your support.

**Myron E. Russell Quasi-Endowed Scholarship – (210237-20)**
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 piano students.

**Jim Coffin Endowed Jazz Scholarship – (213154-30)**
Supports scholarships for jazz majors.

**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 Capps Memorial Jazz Endowed Scholarship – (220811-30)**
Supports scholarships for jazz majors.

**Dorothea 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.

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Music students gather for photos at spring commencement

Petrichord Quintet in rehearsal for the Chamber Music Concert

Students and choir director from AGWSR pose for a quick photo at the Middle School Treble Festival

Music Educators participate in a workshop on campus

Student composers with Dr. Swilley after the Student Composers Concert

Students rehearse for the Practice Carillon Concert in Jebe Hall, March 2023