



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

rhythms

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Inside this issue

- / Music Ensembles on Tour
- / UNI and Kirkwood: 2+2 Agreement
- / The President's Own
- / Amplify Engagement

Contents



Music Ensembles on Tour



UNI and Kirkwood: 2+2 Agreement



The President's Own

SCHOOL OF MUSIC rhythms

MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Volume 43, Fall 2024

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From the Director.....	3
Amplify: Engagement.....	7
Guest Artists.....	10
Opera Notes.....	11
Jazz Notes.....	12
Community Outreach.....	14
Scholarship Benefit Concert.....	16
Student Awards and Honors.....	18
Student Spotlight.....	20
Faculty Spotlight.....	21
Faculty News and Activities.....	22
New Faculty and Retirements.....	24
Emeritus Faculty News.....	28
Alumni News and Updates.....	29
Recent Graduates: Plans and Honors.....	32
Alumni Spotlight.....	33
Spotlight Series 2024-25.....	35
Opportunities to Give.....	36
Snapshots.....	39



FROM THE **Director**

The past year was a whirlwind of challenges, changes and new things to be learned. As Interim Director, every day was an adventure – mostly in a good way! I am so fortunate to work with a tremendous group of creative, talented and supportive faculty and staff, each one dedicated to the success of our students and our mission to provide world-class educational and musical experiences to our students and our community.

This year, we bid a fond farewell to retiring faculty members Jean McDonald Michelle Swanson, Diane Vallentine and John Vallentine; we wish them well on the next phase of their life journeys. Sadly, our piano technician, David Dunn, passed away suddenly in March. David was a dear friend to many of the School of Music faculty and staff; his meticulous work and his kind, humble nature are sorely missed. The UNI Foundation has established a memorial fund in David's honor, for those who would like to contribute.

Three School of Music faculty earned prestigious university awards. Erik Rohde and Michael Conrad were recognized with the UNI Outstanding Teaching Award, while Heather Peyton was awarded the Ross A. Nielsen Professional Service Award. Congratulations to all of you!

The School of Music's impact goes well beyond the Cedar Valley: as I write this, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, the Varsity Glee Club and the Cecilians are all touring abroad in Italy. Some of their adventures will be documented in the pages that follow, along with just a few of the many guest artist appearances, festivals, performances, and student and faculty accomplishments over the past year. We are so grateful for our concert patrons who buy tickets, and for our donors who provide financial support for music scholarships, guest artist and special concert series.

As we look forward to the year ahead, our Amplify initiative will focus on our alumni. Whether they are choir or band directors scattered among Iowa's public schools, continuing graduate studies at other institutions, working as composers, arts administrators, media specialists, or conductors and performers appearing on stages around the country and around the world, they are all special to us. They all carry with them the skills and the values instilled here – they are all UNI Panthers!

Melinda Boyd
Director and Professor

On the Road Again

Music Ensemble Tours



As many students were packing up their dorm rooms and heading into summer vacation, students in the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Varsity Glee Club and Cecilians were packing their bags for their summer tours to Italy!

Under the direction of faculty artist and conductor John Wiles, members of the Cecilians and Varsity Glee Club traveled to Italy May 13-22. The choirs first visited the Tuscany region, where they toured the cities of Lucca, Florence and Siena, and offered performances at St. Bartolomeo Abbey, and in collaboration with Corale Valdera. Following their time in Tuscany, the choirs headed to Rome where they toured the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navone, Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and more. The groups offered several concerts in Rome including performances at the Basilica di Santa Croce in Gerusalemme with Coro Musicanova, and St. Peter's Basilica. On their final day of the tour, the choirs took a trip through Ancient Rome where they saw the Roman Forum, and the famous Colosseum. After a final

performance and farewell dinner, the singers headed back home to Iowa, with one Glee Club member noting, "This trip has meant so much to all of us and provided us with countless experiences and memories that we will never forget."

Just before the choirs headed home, our Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of faculty artist and conductor Erik Rohde, departed for their own journey to Italy, May 19-29. The orchestra spent time in northern Italy, stopping in Venice, Padua, Cremona and Alba. The group offered a performance at Teatro Aurora in Padua, an exchange concert with Cremona Mousikè at Cortile Palazzo Fodri in Cremona, and two performances featured at the Alba International Music Festival. Sight-seeing on this adventure was truly special, including stops at St. Mark's Square, Doge's Palace, St. Mark's Basilica, the Verona Arena, Igor Stravinsky's gravesite, and Museo del Violino (Violin Museum), known for its collection of stringed instruments including those crafted by Antonio Stradivari himself.



“ This trip has meant so much to all of us and provided us with countless experiences and memories that we will never forget. ”



Reflecting on the trip, Rohde shared, “The orchestra tour to northern Italy this May was an amazing experience, full of great performances and cultural immersion in both small and large cities. Highlights include a side-by-side concert in Cremona with a local youth orchestra, performing Aaron Jay Kernis’ *Musica Celestis* with the composer present in Alba, and performing the European premiere of Jennifer Higdon’s flute concerto *The Light That We Can Hear* with Dr. Occeña. We saw quite a few historic instruments, and our bass section got to play several instruments in a museum

in Venice, including an Amati bass! We had many surprises, including an impromptu Educational Concert in Busca and lots of audience demands for encores – at our last two performances the audience asked for three encores at each performance! It was an unforgettable experience and so fun to spend extended time together as a group and experience the culture, food and music of Italy. Audiences were appreciative and also impressed with the level of playing of the group. Bravi to all of the students who performed!” 🎵

London Calling

In November 2023, the UNI Panther Marching Band accepted an invitation to perform in London’s New Year’s Day Parade 2024-25 edition. Bob Bone, parade chairman and founder, as well as Duncan Sandys, senior patron and former Lord Mayor of Westminster, flew overseas to personally invite the band. Cheers and excitement rang throughout the UNI-Dome as they made the announcement. The Panther Marching Band’s last performance in London took place in 2015. Viewers in the U.S. will be able to watch the parade through PBS.

Editor’s note: thank you to John Wiles, Erik Rohde, Nathan Boorman and University Relations for their help with this article.



UNI and Kirkwood Community College come together to offer **2+2 Music Degree**

In a groundbreaking move within the realm of music education, the University of Northern Iowa School of Music and Kirkwood Community College have proudly entered into a unique partnership allowing students to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Music. A 2+2 articulation agreement opens doors for students to seamlessly transition from an Associate of Applied Arts in Music at Kirkwood to a comprehensive Bachelor of Arts in Music at UNI, fostering a well-rounded and enriched musical education.

“This pathway allows students to achieve their goal through two years at Kirkwood followed by two years at UNI,” said Melinda Boyd, Director of the School of Music at UNI. “The 2+2 articulation agreement stands as a testament to the forward-thinking approach of both institutions and their dedication to enhancing educational opportunities in the field of music.”

“This exciting new partnership increases the opportunities for our music students to transfer,” said Kirkwood Dean of Arts and Humanities Jennifer Cunningham. “Kirkwood students will now have the opportunity to start their music career path at Kirkwood and easily transfer to UNI which is well known for producing quality musicians and educators. This articulation will save students thousands of dollars on their post-secondary education and they will know that they are transferring to a school that has a very high rate of career placement after graduation.”

While administrators at both institutions have been interested in a partnership for years, the articulation agreement is now made possible through UNIFI – leveraging UNI’s general education requirements, which are designed to offer students increased flexibility in tailoring their academic journey to align with their individual goals.

The partnership emphasizes the importance of collaborative initiatives in higher education. Faculty and staff at both institutions are dedicated to finding additional transfer pathways for the benefit of our mutual students.

The 2+2 music degree program reflects a commitment to student success, providing a navigable path for aspiring musicians to cultivate their talents and achieve their academic and professional aspirations.

For more information please visit admissions.uni.edu/transfer. 🎵



AMPLIFY ENGAGEMENT

The School of Music launched the Amplify: Engagement project in 2023-24. The goal of this initiative was to demonstrate the UNI School of Music's commitment to our role to better our community. The musicians at UNI have always provided world class musical experiences for audiences in the Cedar Valley and across the globe. Through Amplify Engagement, we sought to engage with our traditional audiences and introduce ourselves to new audiences. Throughout the year, we engaged with audiences in unconventional venues on campus, performed across the Cedar Valley, shared our music with lowans of all ages, and demonstrated that music is a vital part of the human experience.

Though the series wrapped up in May, our faculty and students are committed to continuing to prioritize engagement within the UNI and Cedar Valley community in the future. Take a look back through the year of highlights at music.uni.edu/amplify-engagement.

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 2024-25 will be Amplify: Alumni, and will explore the many ways that our UNI School of Music alumni are making an impact throughout the world.

Voice students engage through worship music

UNI School of Music voice students have a long history of vital contribution to music ministry in churches, and on occasion civic organizations, throughout the Cedar Valley. While there are often a few who hold positions as conductors of chancel choirs, many others serve as choral section leaders, special music soloists, worship band musicians and cantors. In most cases this commitment is weekly, and requires participation two days per week.

Students who serve our community in this way benefit in many ways beyond the boundaries of practical experience. Interacting regularly with people of all ages and a diversity of beliefs, these students form a variety of meaningful relationships, and begin to recognize their value within the larger community.

Below, please find a representative selection of students at work in these settings. Some of the photos also feature School of Music graduates who have remained in the community to pursue advanced degrees, or who are now working, but have continued their music practice in this setting.

Marcos Antunez, junior vocal performance major — directs the choir, First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, IA.

Adrian Benson, freshman music major — section leader, First Presbyterian, Waterloo, IA.

Ruthellen Brooks, sophomore music education major — alto section leader at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls, IA, as well as their SHINE

(Sunday School) co-music director; also volunteers at Wesley United Methodist Church as choir member, and teaches the Littlest Angels (K-2) in the summer at Wesley Summer Music Camp.

Maria Casady, junior music minor — member of Crosspoint Church Worship Band, Waverly, IA.



Julia Fink, senior music major — regular member of the The Metropolitan Chorale (a Cedar Valley community chorus); section leader, First Presbyterian, Waterloo, IA.

Benjamin Lumley, junior music major — worship leader at Stonebridge Church in Boone, IA, singing and playing guitar; plays French horn for the Boone Municipal Band.

Ellie Gavin, senior vocal performance major — First Congregational United Church of Christ, Waterloo, IA.

Calista Rowe, senior music education major — section leader, Central Christian Church, Waterloo, IA.

Bryson Grove, sophomore music education major — volunteer co-leader for the UNI Navigators worship band.

Akela Salter, junior music education major — works for the UNI Children’s Choir; teacher/helper for the UNI Camp Musicmania.

Emma Hawkinson, senior vocal performance major — section leader, First Presbyterian, Waterloo, IA.

Joley Seitz, second year master’s vocal performance major — First Congregational United Church of Christ, Waterloo, IA.

Sophia Jensen, freshman theater major, music minor — worship team member, UNI Navigators worship band.

Jean McDonald, Jeff Brich, Michelle Monroe, music faculty — volunteer members of the Cedar Heights Presbyterian Community Presbyterian Church; Jean and Jeff also extended their choral volunteerism participating in a Kickstarter project for Minneapolis-based composer Iver Hubert, recording excerpts of work *Becoming Earth*, where they had the opportunity to make music with community musicians throughout the twin cities. 🎵

Lilly Kallenberger, sophomore music education major — section leader First Presbyterian, Cedar Falls, IA.

Jamie Knox, senior music education major — volunteer singer in church choir at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA; substitute director when needed, cantor, and volunteer soloist; in the past she has also given voice lessons through the College Hill Lutheran Church Conservatory.



The President's Own

Marine Band visits UNI and Cedar Falls



On Saturday, Oct. 14, The President's Own United States Marine Band played to a sold-out audience in the Gallagher Bluedorn. The President's Own has appeared at presidential events including inaugurations, holiday concerts and other White House celebrations for years, and the Cedar Valley community was honored to welcome the ensemble. A featured stop on their fall tour, the ensemble performed patriotic favorites alongside classic and contemporary repertoire, including works by Sousa, Bach, Verdi, music from the film *Catch Me if You Can*, and a medley of the hits of Frank Sinatra.



The UNI Connection: Rider Returns

As a professional musician who got her start at UNI's School of Music, Master Gunnery Sgt. Susan Rider uses her musical talents to hail the red, white and blue every day — but she still has a special affinity for the purple and gold. She has played in the White House numerous times and been featured in six Presidential Inaugurations, all as part of the mission of The President's Own United States Marine Band, which she's been a part of since 1997.

"Keith Johnson, one of my professors at UNI, used to say to me, 'My trumpet has taken me places I never thought I would go,' and now I say the same thing," said Rider, who graduated with a degree in music in 1989. "Through my ability to play a trumpet, I've had the opportunity to be a part of a lot of really, really excellent, fun and meaningful events."

For Rider, some highlights of her work have included playing for 1.8 million people when President Barack Obama was inaugurated and performing with composer John Williams at the Kennedy Center for the band's 225th anniversary.

Tying it all Together: Galyen Inducted into American Bandmasters Association

Following their performance in Cedar Falls, and their remaining tour dates, The President's Own United States Marine Band returned to Washington, DC. In March, UNI School of Music faculty artist Danny Galyen also traveled to Washington, DC, to conduct this world-renowned ensemble, as part of the celebration for his induction into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association (ABA) (as reported in detail in our fall 2023 issue). Galyen serves as UNI's Director of Bands and conductor of the UNI Wind Ensemble. 🎵



Be Our Guest

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 masterclasses, 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.

Guest artist funds for 2023-24 were supported in part or in full by the Floyd School of Music Enrichment Fund, Joyce Gault Piano Concert Series Fund, 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. 🎵

FALL 2023

Nicole Roman, saxophone
 Karel Keldermans, carillon
 Gabriel Forero, viola
 Dakota Andersen, voice

The President's Own
 U.S. Marine Band
 Jenny Klukken, percussion
 Vincent Carr, organ

SPRING 2024

Jeffery Kyle Hutchins, saxophone
 Thomas Leleu, tuba
 Robin Scott, violin
 Grace Baugher Dunlap, composer
 Ferenc Szabó, conductor
 Laura A. Goucher, conductor
 Leon Kuehner, conductor
 Mike Stern, guitar
 Leni Stern, guitar
 Svetlana Smolina, piano
 Imani Winds
 F-Plus Ensemble
 Jeremy Beck, composer
 George Tsontakis, composer

Geoffrey Keezer, piano
 Gillian Margot, voice
 Alexander Meszler, organ
 Evan Chapman, percussion
 New Third Stream Saxophone Quartet
 Daniel Adam Maltz, fortepianist
 Nicole Lambrecht, conductor
 Arlie Langager, conductor
 Brent Mead, trombone
 Drew Bonner, euphonium
 Hakeem Bilal, trombone
 Dave Rivello, composer/conductor
 Denise Tryon, horn



In February, GRAMMY® award-winning woodwind quintet Imani Winds visited UNI for a performance at the Gallagher Bluedorn. During their residency, members of the ensemble led hands-on workshops for School of Music students.



UNI Opera presents
Suor Angelica

In the spring of 2024, UNI Opera presented *Suor Angelica* from Puccini's *Il trittico* in the Gallagher Bluehorn on the UNI campus. Performances were held March 1-3. The production featured a double cast with the UNI Opera Ensemble, faculty artist Suzanne Hendrix-Case and guest artist Karen Vuong, under the direction of Richard Gammon, with vocal coaches Korey Barrett and Kate Saulsbury. The performance also featured the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra led by Erik Rohde.

Suor Angelica composed by Giacomo Puccini, with libretto written by Giovacchino Forzano, comes from a set of three one-act operas, *Il trittico*. The theme of *Il trittico* exposes humanity in the context of death. The opera is set in a convent where the title character, Suor Angelica (Sister Angelica), has been cut off from her

royal ties after having a child out of wedlock. Cast out by her family and sent to atone for her sins, Suor Angelica has already spent seven years in the convent when the opera begins. When one of her royal relatives, La Zia Principessa, comes to visit, Suor Angelica's entire world changes.

This production featured a modern design with visual significance parallel to that of the nun's lifestyle. The set also included stage with reflective black marley. This element lengthened the verticality of the visuals on stage deepening the audience's visual of gesture phrases performed by the community of nuns in addition to the colorful flowers on stage. With help from Aharon Moody and William (Chris) Tuzicka, truss frames became a movable cross suspended above the stage that moved in connection with the narrative aspect of the opera.

An integral moment in the opera when Suor Angelica receives news of her son from her estranged relative, La Zia Principessa, the cross turns away from her as she enters the stage. At the climactic ending of the opera, a heavenly presence was felt by the falling petals alongside the nuns' gestural representations of prayer, as Suor Angelica took her last moments on the stage.

Joley Seitz, second-year vocal performance graduate student and graduate assistant, performed the title role of Suor Angelica, in addition to her other double cast member, Karen Vuong.

"*Suor Angelica* was a beautiful experience to be a part of and such a powerful story to tell. What I loved most about portraying Angelica was getting a chance to show the audience

the power of a mother's love. Puccini showcased the pain and anguish of Angelica's struggle of morality through his music," Seitz said.

"During my time at UNI, I was lucky enough to work on this role with a wonderful voice professor, Jean McDonald, vocal coaches Korey Barrett and Kate Saulsbury, and opera director, Richard Gammon. I will forever be grateful for the education and performance opportunities that UNI has given me over the past six years." Gammon noted how the varying levels of experience from second-year undergraduates (some non-majors) to graduate students, and world-class faculty and guest artists, created an environment where all members could be a part of community while witnessing various levels of collaboration. UNI opera students were able to witness the professionals' processes and approaches, while also exploring ways to define and diversify their own artistry through different character depictions across the double cast members.

"Because it was a double cast, I think that it was also good for the students because they could see how you could have two different interpretations of a character, and both are OK. That you can make different decisions and there isn't a right or wrong, that there are several solutions that work," Hendrix-Case, faculty artist, said. In addition, she noted how the students benefited from seeing "how the professionals work and what the expectations are for a professional performance."

The power of *Suor Angelica* resonated across these many perspectives, while the production structure welcomed various levels of experience that resulted in performances that shaped impactful experiences for both performers and audience members. 🎵

It Was a Very Good Year

Jazz Division Updates

The 2023-24 school year was an extremely productive one for student composers and arrangers in the Jazz Division. Bookending the year's performance calendar were two student recitals featuring major writing projects for small group. In October, senior trombonist Levi Temple presented the entirety of his debut album, *What Once Was*, which captures musically the arc of a relationship. April was senior saxophonist Logan Neifert's turn, with the premiere of his extended piece, *Music of the Spheres*, inspired by radio wave emissions from various bodies in our solar system.

Along with small group writing, each of the three big bands performed student scores this year. Four of Jazz Band One's five on-campus concerts featured at least one student score, including originals and arrangements by Temple, sophomore trumpeter Sean Kiefer, and graduate saxophonist Simon White. Together, the trio contributed 10 new scores to the Jazz Band One library, and two of Kiefer's big band originals were selected for events sponsored by the International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers (ISJAC), an online workshop with composer/arranger John Beasley called *Uncharted Territory*, and the *New Music Workshop* at the ISJAC conference in Nashville. Additionally, Jazz Band Two premiered an original composition by first-year student pianist Lucas Zaehring, and Jazz Band Three programmed an original

by first-year trombonist Brody Schoon, and an arrangement by ensemble director White.

In April, Jazz Band One hosted Dave Rivello (Director of the New Jazz Ensemble, Eastman School of Music), who provided feedback for the 14 students in Arranging II in the form of a seminar in which Jazz Band One played student works for his comments. He also conducted the band on four of his original compositions in concert. In addition to the Rivello residency, the Jazz Division hosted several other guest artists and clinicians.

In October, we welcomed home UNI alum and vocalist Dakota Andersen, who performed with both Jazz Band One and Jazz Band Two. Included in the program was Andersen's original song, "Turn that Frown Upside Down," arranged by alumnus James Mons. In February, jazz guitar legend Mike Stern (Blood, Sweat and Tears, Miles Davis) visited for the Tallcorn Jazz Festival and Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz concerts. He was joined by his wife, Leni Stern, a remarkable guitarist in her own right. In addition to the concerts and Tallcorn clinics, the two gave private instruction to student and faculty guitarists. In March, pianist and composer Geoffrey Keezer gave a presentation to the Arranging II class, and performed a stunning duo concert with vocalist Gillian Margot. Concurrent with the spring Jazz Band One concert in April, alumni

Nic Addelia and Erin Maltby-Addelia organized an alumni event, drawing dozens of jazz division alumni back to campus. Among them was trumpeter Chris Van Leeuwen, who gave excellent trumpet masterclasses for both the trumpet studio and the jazz students.

The Jazz faculty also had an eventful year. Michael Conrad was awarded the prestigious Sammy Nestico Prize for 2023, which carries with it a commission for the United States Air Force Band to write an original work for The Airmen of Note. The Iowa Jazz Composers Orchestra, under Conrad's direction (and featuring faculty artists Christopher Merz and Anthony Williams), performed at Hoyt Sherman Place (Des Moines), KCCK Radio's Jazz Under the Stars (Cedar Rapids), the Redstone Room (Davenport), and the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts. In addition, Conrad received a Jazz Road Tours Grant in support of a tour through Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa for the Mike Conrad Trio. Merz's septet, Shorter Stories (featuring School of Music faculty members Williams, Conrad, and Alexander Pershounin along with recently retired guitar instructor Bob Dunn, local drummer Josh Hakanson, and trumpeter Jon Ailabouni from UW LaCrosse), released their debut album, *New Juju*, on SkyDeck Records. The band performed on the main stage at the Iowa City Jazz Festival, Noce Jazz Club (Des Moines), and Opus Concert Café (Cedar Rapids). Merz was also invited to conduct the Massachusetts All-State Jazz Band for the second time in March, and his arrangement of Wayne Shorter's "Speak No Evil" was selected for the ISJAC New Music Workshop. 🎵

Editor's note: Thank you to Chris Merz for his contribution of this article and to Nathan Boorman, photographer.





Community Outreach

Our community outreach programs continued to explore new and innovative ways of bringing music to their students this year.



Community Music School

Another year has come and gone, and the Community Music School (CMS) is honored to have been a part of so many lives while enriching the community through music. Our year began with celebrating the School of Music theme of “All of Us,” embracing a commitment to better our community by providing opportunities for young and old to experience music, whether it be by creating their own, or providing engaging concert opportunities.

We celebrated our mission by providing musical opportunities for persons from at least 24 Iowa cities, and by inviting guest artists from the community to participate in concerts. The New Horizons Band welcomed alphon soloists David and Lisa Lang to perform with the band at their fall concert, followed in the spring by inviting the newly established Mariachi Panteras, led by School of Music Director, Melinda Boyd, to perform mariachi music for concert goers prior to the New Horizons Band spring concert. The Children’s Choir was honored to be invited to perform at the annual UNI Varsity Glee Club Christmas Variety Show. Children’s Choir members performed two songs, directed by Ryan Occeña, including one piece with Glee Club members. Other Children’s Choir concerts included members of the Metropolitan Chorale, and gospel soloist Kenesha Davis.

In addition to the usual CMS ensembles and learning opportunities, a new Community Horn Choir was established this winter. Led by faculty artist Maddy Tarantelli, the horn choir welcomed over a dozen hornists of varying experiences from the Cedar Valley and surrounding communities, including UNI horn students. Meeting monthly, the horn choir made its first performance at the UNI Horn Studio concert this past spring.



Spectrum Project

On April 14, the UNI Spectrum Project resumed its activities for a second year following a hiatus due to COVID, presenting their show and art exhibit titled Once Upon an Adventure. The production featured a cast of 38 performers ranging from ages five to nineteen, supported by 41 volunteers from UNI and Hawkeye Community College, and faculty from the School of Music. They showcased a blend of music, dance and drama scenes to an audience exceeding 1000. Every Saturday since January, the Spectrum Project rehearsed to develop and practice for the show. Before the show, attendees enjoyed an immersive art display in the Gallagher Bluedorn lobby, exploring multiple biomes filled with jellyfish, snakes and aliens.

On May 18, the School of Music hosted the 3rd Annual Spectrum JamFest, a fundraising concert benefiting the UNI Spectrum Project. More than 40 modern school bands, totaling 177 students, took the stage to perform the latest hits and their original compositions. Returning for a second year, Mandy Harvey served as the guest artist. Known for her inspiring performances on America’s Got Talent, Harvey, a singer-songwriter, lost her hearing at a young age yet perseveres in writing and performing her music.



Suzuki School

The UNI Suzuki School has been busy this year providing individual and group lessons, hosting student and faculty recitals, facilitating orchestra concerts and tours, and presenting the final concert of the year for all students in May.

The Suzuki School has a unique opportunity to offer many years of music experiences and opportunities to our students creating long time associations and friendships. Pictured above are this year’s graduating seniors. Some have been with the program for 15 years. The Suzuki method offers a mother tongue approach giving students the opportunity to play their instrument before they learn to read music in a similar way that they learn to speak before they learn to read. With the help of their parents attending lessons alongside them and their patient teachers, students gain instrument skills and eventually learn to read music, participate in ensembles, join their school music programs, and reap the many benefits of studying music.

Some Suzuki graduates may include music studies in their post-high school experiences while others do not. Some will choose non-musical careers, with participating in music an option during college or later, while some will add music as a minor or second major. Regardless, all find their time with the Suzuki School rewarding for however many years they participate. 🎵

WELCOME Home

Please join us for the University of Northern Iowa School of Music's 43rd Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert!

Friday, September 27, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
live in the Gallagher Bluedorn

We're thrilled to welcome you back to the Gallagher Bluedorn for the 43rd Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert: Welcome Home! We're planning an evening of exceptional performances by UNI faculty, students, and returning alumni, featuring a wide range of works, composers and performers aimed at highlighting the incredibly talented School of Music alumni in collaboration with our current students and faculty.

The concert will include performances by the UNI Faculty Brass Ensemble, UNI Wind Ensemble, UNI Opera, Jazz Band One, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Choirs, as well as featured alumni soloists, ensemble members, conductors and more. Repertoire will include Katahji Copley's *Fanfare for Oya*, selections from Mozart's *Requiem* and more.

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 allow us to continue the support we have provided in the past, please consider becoming a special donor. Donor categories are as follows:

Impresario Circle
\$5,000 or more

President's Circle
\$2,500-\$4,999

Dean's Circle
\$2,000-\$2,499

Director's Circle
\$1,500-\$1,999

Underwriters
\$1,000-\$1,499

Guarantors
\$500-\$999

Patrons
\$300-\$499

Benefactors
\$150-\$299

To become a special donor, contact the School of Music office #115 Russell 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 13, 2024.

All contributions and ticket costs for the Scholarship Benefit Concert are tax deductible.

Thank you to the "Special Donors" from the 2023 Scholarship Benefit Concert

President's Circle
\$2,500-\$4,999

Elly Stettler Leslie

Director's Circle
\$1,500-\$1,999

Marleta Matheson
James L. Wright

Underwriters
\$1,000-\$1,499

Dorothy Glascock
Dianne Phelps

Guarantors
\$500-\$999

Jeanette & Dana Andrews
Bruce Bengtson
Margaret Bradford
Patricia L. Gadelmann
Dr. Beth Gilbert
Cecile Johnson

In memory of Dr. Keith Johnson
Daniel & Linda Mixdorf
Dr Paul & Carole Rider
Terry & Janice Yarns

Patrons
\$300-\$499

Jackie & Larry Betts
Steve & Gerry Chamberlin
Angeleita Floyd & Scott Cawelti
Albert & Cathy Humke
Emi Juergens
Martha Kroese
Dr. Regena K. Peters
Arlo & Sue Sime
Dalle & Pany Thammathai
Jeff & Jean Triplett
Kendra Wohlert

Benefactors
\$150-\$299

Mary Andersen
Kevin Bales & Nan Serck
R.B. Campbell
Christie Carlo
Theresa Chardos Camilli
& Peter Camilli
Cordell & Jennifer Cremers
Frances Daughenbaugh
JoDee Davis
Robert & Carol Deppe
Patrick & Amy Dougherty
Levi & Julie Dressler
Craig & Carmen Driver
Jeffrey Driver
Mark & Bonnie Farland
Jacqueline Halbloom & Scott Murphy
In memory of
William James Shepherd
Noreen Hermansen
José & Becky Herrera
Richard & Sheryl Hibbs Peshek
Jodi Landeros
David R. & Cindi Mason
James McCutcheon
David & Claudia Meyer
LaVerne Puetz
Iqra Rahim
Susan Rider
Mary Schlicher
Marlene Schmidt
Mike & Rita Waggoner
Lee & Elizabeth Weimer
Kelly Wells Sittig & Erik Sittig



Turner Sperry



Emma Hawkinson



Aiden Endres

Student Awards



The UNI School of Music proudly recognizes last year's competition winners and acknowledges the many honors and awards that our students have earned.

In fall 2023, the School of Music hosted the Instrumental Concerto Competition contest. Eight finalists competed in a live performance held at the Gallagher Bluedorn on Nov. 1.

Turner Sperry was selected as the winner of the competition, with **Aubrey Williamson** and **Aiden Endres** receiving honorable mentions.

Turner Sperry is a senior at UNI studying cello performance under Isidora Nojkovic. During summers, Turner has had the opportunity of studying with cellists like Andrew Mark, Rhonda Rider, Thomas Mesa, Hannah Holman, and many more while attending music festivals like Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, and the Emerald Chamber Music Festival. A founding member of the

Petrichord Quartet, Turner is the event coordinator, treasurer and music librarian for the group. The quartet has performed around the Midwest, most notably being featured in the Gallagher Bluedorn's Candlelight Concert Series in Oct. 2023. The group regularly collaborates with students and composers at UNI, and performed with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra this summer on their Italy tour. Turner's solo endeavors include actively subbing with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, and the Fort Dodge Area Symphony Orchestra. This fall, Turner plans on attending graduate school for a master's degree in cello performance.

Emma Hawkinson was named the 2024 Presser Scholar Award winner in January. 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. The Award is an honor and the recipient will be known as a Presser Scholar during their senior year. Emma is majoring in vocal performance, and is active in the string department as a violinist. She is currently involved in three ensembles: UNI Opera, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO), and Concert Chorale. She is on the executive boards of both Students of Singing and the NISO Student Leadership Committee. She is also a Peer Educator for the School of Music, a church choir section leader, and has taught violin and music privately for over four years.

In March, the Emerging Artist Competition was held live in the Gallagher Bluedorn.



Lauren Geerlings



Claire Uselding



Emily Clouser (left)

Aiden Endres, marimba, was awarded the top honor of the Charles and Marleta Matheson Award. Endres is a third-year Percussion Performance Major from Minnesota. He is a versatile performer across campus and leads his jazz fusion band in the Midwest. Aiden recently secured a position as Section Percussionist/Assistant Timpanist with a symphony in Illinois. Passionate about his craft, he seeks mentorship from professionals such as Erich Rieppel and intends to continue percussion performance in graduate school.

Lauren Geerlings, violin, won the Curtiss-Fullerton Award and the People’s Choice Award. Geerlings is a junior at UNI studying violin and oboe performance under the direction of Nash Ryder and Heather Peyton. She is currently involved in numerous ensembles and student organizations including the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO), Wind Ensemble, Petrichord String Quartet, Sigma Alpha Iota, UNI School of Music student support team, NISO student leadership committee, and School of Music Student Advisory Board. Following

graduation, Lauren plans on attending graduate school for her master’s in violin performance.

Claire Uselding, saxophone, claimed the Myron and Ruth Russell Award, the final award at the Emerging Artist Competition. Claire is a third-year music education major with a jazz emphasis. She is currently playing in Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band One, and a saxophone quartet. Claire has been teaching private saxophone lessons through UNI’s Community Music School for the last three semesters.

Emily Clouser was awarded the 2024 Lux Service Award (LSA) at the annual Student Leadership award ceremony. The LSA is one of four awards from the Dean of Students office at UNI, and is awarded to graduating seniors to acknowledge their exemplary service as students who held leadership positions in at least two student organizations. Clouser is a choral music education major from Waukee and a fourth-generation UNI student. She has been very active in the School of Music and is a leadership member

of the UNI Guild of Carillonners. Her work related to the renovation and expansion of the carillon atop the Campanile at UNI was incredible, and will have a positive impact on future generations of UNI Panthers for years to come.

Members of the leadership teams for several School of Music student organizations were recognized at the Student Leadership Awards with the Student Organization Program of Distinction Award for their collaboratively planned School of Music Welcome Event, held in September. The event, spearheaded by senior **Emily Paul**, included information tables on music organizations, community building activities and more, aimed at welcoming new and returning students, as well as sharing information on available resources.

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

Editor’s note: Thank you to Erik Rohde, Heather Peyton, and Brenda Hackenmiller for their help with and contributions to this article.

School of Music earns high Honors

With the long list of awards and honors that School of Music students earned this year, it may come as no surprise to learn that many of our students are part of the Honors & 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:

Aidan Anderson, Adrian Benson, Trey Blaser, Carissa Blumka, Angelia Borski, Ruthellen Brooks, Sidnie Clark, Emily Clouser, Emma Gardner, Gage Juhl, Ethan Labby, Jackson Minton, Elias Phipps, Alayna Ringsby, Dora Roorda, Addie Scanlan, Rylee Scheel, Spencer Schnetzer, Morgan Stumpf, Abby Voshell, Abby Wendland and Bethany Winget.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS:

Emma Gardner, Jackson Minton, Alayna Ringsby, Dora Roorda, Abby Wendland and Bethany Winget.

The School of Music would also like to congratulate the School of Music students who appeared on the **fall 2023 and spring 2024 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! 🎵

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Stephanie Ramos

Stephanie Ramos is a Music and Social Work double major from Des Moines. Stephanie studies viola with Tyler Hendrickson. She has performed with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra and chamber groups at UNI. Her favorite classes at UNI have been her social work classes and her applied viola lessons.

During her time at UNI, Stephanie has held the position of Principal Viola in the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra. She is the President of the UNI Chapter of the American String Teachers Association, and co-founded the newly formed Mariachi Panteras (Mariachi Panthers) group, playing Mexican folk music on the violin. She also teaches violin and viola lessons at the UNI Suzuki School and recently completed her internship/field experience at Goodwill Industries of Northeast Iowa in Waterloo for her Social Work degree as a Community Trainer, Direct Support Professional and Job Coach for adults with disabilities.

In spring 2024, Stephanie's research titled "Preventing Injuries in Violinists and Violists through Body Awareness and Appropriate Set-Up" was selected to be presented at the Research in the Capitol event in Des Moines. Research in the Capitol is a collaborative effort of the honors programs from the University of Northern Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Iowa.



Each spring, the three Regents universities send 20 students to provide poster presentations of undergraduate research. The event celebrates how undergraduates learn by doing research in a variety of fields.

When asked about her favorite part of studying at UNI, Ramos said, "The kindness of the professors I have had at UNI in both the School of Music and Social Work departments and how dedicated they are to making sure their students are proficient in their fields."

After graduating from UNI, Stephanie will be staying in the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. Her plans are to continue teaching violin and viola lessons at the UNI Suzuki School and to work towards continuing to make a positive impact in the community using my both her Social Work and Music degree. Ramos said, "I want to live my best life doing the things I love!"

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



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Amanda McCandless

Amanda McCandless, Professor of Clarinet, joined the faculty at UNI in 2008 and since that time has built one of the largest and most successful clarinet studios in the region. During the 2023-24 academic year, she also served as Interim Associate Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.

McCandless has performed recitals throughout the U.S. and abroad, recently performing in Dublin, Ireland at the International Clarinet Association's 2024 ClarinetFest. She has appeared as a guest soloist with the Caxias do Sul (Brazil) Symphony Orchestra and appeared as guest soloist with the UNI Wind Symphony on their tour of northern Italy. She has also been a guest artist and clinician at the China Conservatory (Beijing, China), Sichuan Conservatory (China), Universidade de Caxias do Sul (Brazil), Universidade do Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), Universidade de Brasília (Brazil), the Universidade Federal de Goiás (Brazil), the Bolivian National Conservatory of Music in La Paz, Bolivia, and at the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez. She has been a guest artist at many international, national and regional clarinet events, including the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest, Flute New Music Consortium Festival, NACWPI National Convention, College Music Society's regional and national conventions, the University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium,

Michigan State University's Clarinet Spectacular, and the Eastern Kentucky University Clarinet Festival. She is also a sought-after guest recitalist and clinician at many universities in the U.S. McCandless is also Second Clarinetist in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra. She previously held the position of Principal Clarinet of the Tulsa Symphony and Ballet Orchestras and has performed as a substitute clarinetist in orchestras throughout the Midwest.

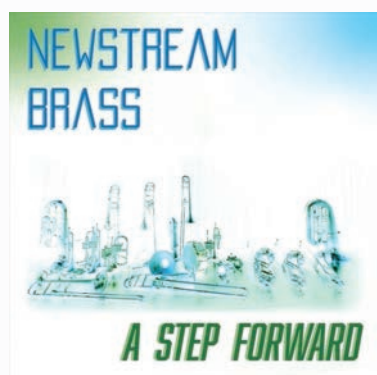
McCandless is a noted advocate and performer of clarinet works by women composers. She has released two albums of unaccompanied clarinet works by women composers on the Mark Records Label, with a third volume premiering this year. She has commissioned works by composers Theresa Martin, Rebecca Burkhardt, and Daijana Wallace, and regularly presents concerts highlighting the work of underrepresented composers. In 2022, McCandless received a grant from the Iowa Arts Council to present presentations about works by women and underrepresented composers

to primary and secondary school students, with the goal of inspiring students of every identity to pursue artistic participation and engagement. Established in 2015, McCandless hosts UNI Clarinet Choir Day every November as a fun, educational opportunity for clarinetists of all ages to come together and enjoy making music. Typically hosting 75 to 100 clarinetists per year, the event attracts clarinetists from the ages of 10 to 75 years old. She also frequently travels across Iowa to give masterclasses for middle and high school students, hoping that music can become a lifelong endeavor regardless of one's career, identity or circumstances. McCandless holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree and Master of Music degree from Michigan State University, where she was a student of Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Eastern Kentucky University, where she was a student of Connie Rhoades. 🎵

Faculty Activities

Matthew Andreini, assistant adjunct professor of percussion

- / Awarded Iowa Arts Council Grant to record a CD of works commissioned by Andreini.
- / Performed Ivan Trevino's "Run to the Light" with UNI Wind Ensemble.
- / Presented "Successful Stickings" at the Iowa Music Educator Association Conference.



Brett Copeland, assistant adjunct professor of tuba and euphonium

- / Released a new classical/jazz album *A Step Forward* with the NewStream Brass Project in Feb. 2024.

Michael Conrad, assistant professor of jazz studies/music education

- / Won the 2023 Sammy Nestico Award and was commissioned by the United States Air Force Band to write an original piece for The Airmen of Note. Conrad also was awarded the 2023-24 UNI Outstanding Teaching Award.
- / Received a Jazz Road Tours Grant for a tour through Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa with Mike Conrad Trio.
- / Led the Iowa Jazz Composers Orchestra in performances at Hoyt Sherman Place (Des Moines), Jazz Under the Stars (Cedar Rapids), the Redstone Room (Davenport), and the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts.

Danny Galyen, professor of music, director of bands

- / Inducted into the American Bandmaster's Association at the 2024 conference in Washington, DC, where he also conducted the United States Marine Band (see page 9).
- / Was Guest Professor at the Hidas Frigyes Conducting Course in Gyor, Hungary.

Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet

- / Performed two faculty recitals; played on Ann Bradfield's faculty recital; was a soloist with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra; soloist with the Cedar Rapids Municipal Band at the Iowa Bandmasters Convention.
- / Appeared as Principal Trumpet with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and Brass Quintet in all performances.
- / Served as Lead Trumpet for the Celtic Women show as well as several shows with the American Vintage Jazz Orchestra and Rodney Pierson Big Band.

Randall Harlow, associate professor of organ and music theory

- / Presented at a musicology symposium at Cornell University on critical evaluations of classical music sustainability.
- / Presented at SysMus23, an international conference for systematic musicology.
- / Awarded a UNI Summer Fellowship to spend June 2024 in Amsterdam in order to participate in an international symposium and innovative organ academy, as well as record an album on the Orgelpark hyperorgan.

Tyler Hendrickson, assistant adjunct professor of viola

- / Presented "Boot Camp: An Advanced Group Class with Success" at the 2024 Conference of the Suzuki Association of the Americas.
- / Performed Max Bruch's Romance for Viola and Orchestra with the Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra on May 5, 2024.
- / Guided student Stephanie Ramos's research, which was selected for Research at the Capitol in Des Moines (see page 20).

John Hines, professor of voice

- / Presented a guest artist recital and teaching mini-residency, Piteå Musikhögskolan, Piteå, Sweden, Sept. 2023.
- / Appeared as soloist in Handel's Messiah, Morton Community Chorus, Morton, Illinois, Nov. 2023, and with First Federated Church, Peoria, Illinois, Dec. 2023.
- / Featured Artist on *Songs & Arias of Richard Wagner*, with Heidi Skok, contralto and Sophia Pavlenko-Chandley, piano, Mid-Ohio Opera, Mansfield Ohio, Jan. 2024.

Andrea Johnson, assistant professor of piano pedagogy

- / Presented three original research presentations at the National Conference for Keyboard Pedagogy in Chicago, Illinois.
- / Gave lecture recital on the Piano Concerto in one movement by Florence B. Price at the College Music Society National Conference in Miami, Florida.
- / Performed as the piano accompanist for the Cecilians Choral Group on their tour of Italy with faculty collaborators John Wiles, Ann Bradfield and Matthew Anderini.



Michelle Monroe, assistant adjunct professor of voice

- / Performed as Feri in *Die Csárdásfürstin* by Emmerich Kalman with Opera on the Lake at the Como Lakeside Pavilion, St. Paul, Minnesota, summer 2023.
- / Appeared as soloist in Mozart's Requiem in D Minor with the Sioux County Oratorio Chorus and Northwestern College A Cappella Chorus, Orange City, April 2024.
- / Performed as Southwind in *Mr. Twister & the Tale of Tornado Alley* with Opera Kansas at the Exploration Place.

Heather Peyton, associate professor of oboe and music theory

- / Won the 2023-2024 Ross A. Nielsen Professional Service Award.

Hannah Porter-Occeña, assistant professor of flute

- / Gave the world premiere of Concerto for flute and orchestra by Su Lian Tan with the Northeastern University Orchestra (Boston, Massachusetts), under the direction of Evan Bennett and with the composer in attendance.
- / Completed and released a flute and piano duos album titled *Discovering Her Voice*.
- / Celebrated ten years as principal flute of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra and five years as principal flute with the Colorado MahlerFest Orchestra.

Erik Rohde, assistant professor of music, director of orchestral activities

- / Awarded the 2023-24 UNI Outstanding Teaching Award.
- / Completed a tour to Italy with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, performing in Padua, Cremona, Busca, and Alba and with Dr. Porter-Occeña performing the European premiere of Jennifer Higdon's flute concerto *The Light That We Can Hear* (see page 5).
- / Premiered and recorded a new Libby Larsen work with Alan Dunbar, baritone and the Winona Symphony Orchestra titled *Emergency Haying* based on the poem by Hayden Carruth.

Kate Smalley Saulsbury, assistant adjunct professor of voice

- / Performed as a collaborative pianist for the premiere of a new choral work *Song of Songs* by Shawn Kirchner, at venues in South Africa with the Morningside University Choir in May 2024.
- / Presented Masterclasses at Morningside University's Vocal Arts Festival.
- / Served as Music Director for *Suor Angelica* with UNI Opera.

Jon Schwabe, professor of theory and composition

- / Provided two arrangements for Joel Waggoner's New Year's Eve concert with Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony.
- / Celebrated the premier of his work *Three Picturesque Miniatures for Trumpet and Orchestra*, premiered by the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (Erik Rohde, conductor, with soloist Randy Grabowski).
- / Celebrated the premiere of his work *Autumn Seas*, a chamber work for clarinet, violin and percussion, by F-Plus at the Winona, MN Maritime Museum with subsequent performances at the UNI New Music Festival and at the National Gallery in Washington DC.

Maddy Tarantelli, assistant professor of instruction in horn

- / Revived the UNI Community Horn Choir, open to all ages. The Community Horn Choir meets once a month and will perform at Horn Studio Recitals, with the next performance scheduled in Nov. 2024.
- / Hosted UNI Horn Day featuring dozens of participants from all over Iowa and several out-of-staters. The featured artist was Denise Tryon of Indiana University and the American Horn Quartet. Next year's Horn Day, scheduled in April 2025, will feature Jessica Danz of the Utah Symphony. 🎵

Every End is a Beginning

New Hires and Retirements in the School of Music

This year the School of Music celebrated the influential careers of four exceptional faculty members as they retired in 2023-24: Jean McDonald, Michelle Swanson, Diane Vallentine and John Vallentine all celebrated retirement this year.



Jean McDonald celebrated her retirement at the conclusion of the fall 2023 semester, having served as professor of voice at UNI since 1988. Jean has been an active contributor to creative life at UNI, appearing as a featured soloist in Faculty Showcase and Spotlight Series events, performing a broad variety of literature with an emphasis on chamber works, including several premieres. Recent performances have included, Ravel's *Sheherazade* with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Britten's *Abraham and Isaac* for the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival, and *Il Tramonto* by Respighi with the UNI Faculty String Quartet.

In March 2001, McDonald performed the West Coast premiere of Jeremy Beck's *Black Water*, a mono-drama based on the novel by Joyce Carol Oates, at California State University at Fullerton, a work she has recorded in collaboration with UNI faculty

pianist, Robin Guy, released by Innova Records. The CD, *pause and feel and hark*, has since been recognized by Gramophone Magazine as one of the "best new recordings from North America." In 2006, McDonald, for whom numerous works have been composed, showcased the work of faculty colleague and composer Jonathan Schwabe in a premiere of "Anyone Lived in a Pretty How Town" for mezzo-soprano and orchestra.

McDonald has appeared as a soloist throughout the region and with several new music organizations throughout the country. She was a guest with the 2008 Mendocino Music Festival in performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. A familiar face to Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra patrons, she also has appeared with Des Moines Symphony, Cedar Rapids Symphony, Quad-Cities Mozart Festival and the Messiah Festival of Music and Art (Lindsborg, KS), in performances of opera, oratorio and song. She holds degrees from the University of Iowa and Simpson College along with several competitive honors, including awards from the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Auditions, and the District Metropolitan Opera Auditions. McDonald's students have earned numerous honors and awards and have secured placement in programs and positions of significant repute throughout the country



Michelle Swanson celebrated her retirement from UNI at the end of spring 2024, having served as Assistant Professor of Music Education, completing her 26th year of teaching at UNI and her 33rd year of teaching overall. At UNI, Swanson taught 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 supervised student teachers in elementary general music and secondary choral music placements. She was also an academic advisor for the upperclassmen choral, wind, brass, percussion and string music education students. In addition, Swanson hosted Music Education Workshops at UNI four times during each academic school year. Throughout the last 25 years, over 2,000 music educators and music education students attended the on-campus events.

While at UNI, Swanson conducted the UNI Children's Choir from 2003 to 2020. She also served on numerous committees and as the faculty sponsor for many student organizations including the Peer Educators, Sigma Alpha Iota and SALT student ministry. Beyond campus, Swanson served as mentor chairperson for Iowa Alliance for Arts Education, was on the board of the Iowa Music Educators Association (the state chapter of NAfME), and is president-elect for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Swanson received her BME, MM, and EdD degrees from the University of Northern Iowa, and also studied Orff Schulwerk at the University of St. Thomas under Jane Frazee, Arvida Steen, Judy Bond, Jay Broeker and Steve Calentropio. While an undergraduate student at UNI, Swanson studied piano with Howard Aibel and voice with Leslie Morgan.

Prior to teaching at UNI, 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 the local schools and enjoys assisting music teachers in the local district. Before joining the faculty in the School of Music, Swanson was the elementary general music teacher at Malcolm Price Laboratory School on the UNI campus.

Swanson has conducted numerous elementary, middle and high school honor choirs throughout Iowa and the Midwest over the years. She 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. Reflecting on retirement, Swanson is most looking forward to spending time with her husband Chad, and their two adult children, Elizabeth and Matthew, and enjoying traveling, board games, outdoor activities, and time with extended family.



Diane Vallentine celebrated her retirement from UNI at the end of spring 2024. Diane served as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Music since 2001, teaching courses in music theory, liberal arts core and occasionally private saxophone. She holds a master's degree in theory with an emphasis in composition from the University of Kentucky and is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Southeast Missouri State University where she earned undergraduate degrees in music theory/composition and music education. Diane's compositions have been performed throughout the Midwest and she has won several awards including First Place in the Music Teacher's National Association Composition Contest.

Previously, Vallentine taught elementary, junior high and high school bands in St. Louis, Missouri, and Valmeyer, Illinois. She has performed as a soloist on saxophone and flute, including a guest solo concerto performance at UNI. She has also performed as a solo concerto and faculty recitalist, and as a guest conductor at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.



John Vallentine celebrated his retirement from UNI in early September 2024. In his most recent role, John reported to the Provost and Executive Vice President as the Associate Provost for Faculty at UNI. In that role, some of his responsibilities included advancing the university vision, mission and strategic plan in relation to faculty activities; providing faculty personnel support to Academic Affairs Division; providing oversight of the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning; elevating diversity in faculty hiring, retention, and review; and serving as Academic Affairs representative on the threat assessment team and other campus-wide committees.

Vallentine currently serves as a National Association of Schools of Music Visiting Evaluator for universities located throughout the United States. In 2018, he was selected as a member of the 2018 Seminar on Leadership of the Faculty at Harvard University.



As a professor of music, John formerly served as director of the UNI School of Music from 1998-2017. During his tenure as director, the School of Music celebrated numerous advancements: the school gained national and international recognition, growing to include 58 faculty members and more than 300 music majors; faculty members and student ensembles received prestigious invitations and performed around the world; the \$23 million dollar Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center opened and a major \$12 million-dollar renovation project was completed for the music building, Russell Hall; and the School of Music endowment in support of faculty and students grew to more than \$5 million dollars. From 1991 to 1998, he served as director of the UNI Panther Marching and Symphonic Bands, and taught applied clarinet lessons. He also taught undergraduate and graduate music education and conducting courses. Other positions previously held were at the University of Kentucky, University of Wisconsin-Platteville and in the Waterloo, Illinois public schools.

Vallentine, a clarinetist and pianist, has published research on applied music teaching behaviors; presented on technology and distance learning; served as an accompanist; and conducted bands, offered master classes, and performed throughout the Midwest and internationally in Costa Rica and Russia. His bands were selected to perform for NFL football games for the Green Bay Packers.

Professor Vallentine holds a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Kentucky; a Master of Music Degree in Conducting from the University of Northern Iowa; and a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Southeast Missouri State University. John resides in Cedar Falls with his wife Diane (*featured on the previous page*), and has four grown children and two grandchildren. 🎵

While we say “see you soon” to these remarkable faculty artists, we are excited to welcome new faculty and staff who begin their UNI journey this year.

Caleb Bendull
Piano Technician

Sara Blessing
Assistant Professor of Instruction
in Choral Music Education

Jamie Clark
Assistant Adjunct Professor of Cello

Josh Hakanson
Assistant Adjunct Professor of Percussion

Jimmy Jensen
Assistant Adjunct Professor of Saxophone

Matthew Ransom
Assistant Adjunct Professor of Bassoon

Staci Toma
Assistant Adjunct Professor of Percussion

Will Yager
Assistant Adjunct Professor of String Bass

To learn more about our new faculty and staff, please visit music.uni.edu/directory for biographies and photos.

The School of Music wishes to congratulate Jean, Michelle, Diane and John on their retirement, and to welcome Caleb, Sara, Jamie, Josh, Jimmy, Matthew, Staci and Will!

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. “My third article in Spanish, ‘Observaciones sobre arrastres ligados, mordentes y mariposas,’ will appear in the Journal *Roseta. Revista de la Sociedad Española de la Guitarra 19* (2024). I have been engaged as a consultant for a performance and new recording of Mozart’s opera *The Magic Flute*, incorporating the Viennese performing materials I rediscovered in 1999. Martin Wählberg will conduct the Okester Nord in Oslo, Norway. The recording will be on the French label Aparté. I began serving on the doctoral committee of a candidate in musicology at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. The opera I rediscovered in 1996, *Der Stein der Weisen*, was performed using my edition at the Kaisersaal of the Würzburger Residenz in Würzburg, Germany on June 7, 2023 by the period instrument orchestra *Hofkapelle München* with some outstanding international singers including the tenor Michael Schade. Lucy has also been busy. She has exhibited her painting in the Gutman Gallery (Ann Arbor, MI) and will be showing at the Cornelia Arts in Chicago in May. Four grandchildren continue to provide an unlimited source of joy.”

Randy Hogancamp – We heard from Randy this summer, with a busy and fun-filled update. “Jane and I split our time almost equally between Cedar Falls and Chicago, taking care of yard work, small house projects, and attending UNI events here while visiting museums, attending concerts, and, of course, checking out restaurants there! This June marks Jane’s second year of retirement and my eighth – where has the time gone! In April 2023, and again this year, we spent a week in Palo Alto visiting Jane’s sister, participating in touristy things including seeing Giants games in Oracle Park, enjoying the Pacific Ocean at Half Moon Bay, hiking the Stanford Dish, walking through Muir Woods and other redwoods, cruising on the Bay, taking in Chinatown and the Civic Center in San Francisco, attending the Cherry Blossom Festival in Cupertino, hearing both Stanford Taiko and San Jose Taiko groups, as well as seeing many other sights!

Last July, we returned to the New Hampshire Music Festival to attend a concert honoring long-time NHMF member and former UNI School of Music colleague Keith Johnson. Jane and I spent 17 summers playing there but hadn’t been back for 14 years, so this seemed like the perfect opportunity. In addition to seeing many old friends and visiting some of our favorite New England sites, we also were privileged to hear UNI graduate Susan Rider play the Haydn Trumpet Concerto with the orchestra in Keith’s honor. What a wonderful time! Also, in July, we returned to Iowa for Jane and our niece Joellen to ride a few days in RAGBRAI. In case anyone had forgotten – IT WAS HOT! But they did it, and overall it was a fun time!

Looking ahead to the fall, we plan to visit former UNI student, faculty and friend Jeff Smith in Spain, spending time in Madrid and Barcelona. Wishing the best to all our faculty, students, alumni and friends!”

Bob Washut – Bob sent us an update, as well. “I survived open heart surgery last August. It put a damper on my golfing activity, to say the least. In other news (and beyond trying to stay one step ahead of the reaper), I’ve remained active musically. I’m performing fairly regularly in the duo series at the Black Hawk hotel in Cedar Falls. Also doing quite a bit of composing and arranging, including commissions from the Jazz Education Network, Wartburg Community Symphony and the Iowa Bop Collective. I was honored to be inducted into the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame in April and enjoyed seeing so many former students. My ‘retirement’ band, The Emeritet (with Chris Merz and Mike Conrad), headlined the Cedar Basin Jazz Festival in June. Lastly, I’m deeply saddened by the loss of David Dunn. He will be missed.” 🎵

Alumni Update



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!

1960s

'60 Carole (Johnston) Gardner, BA, Concord, CA, is still singing with the Diablo Women's Chorale in Walnut Creek, CA.

1970s

'71 Steven Ainsworth, BA, MA '75, Pensacola, FL, retired from teaching in December 2023 after teaching music for over 52 years. Most recently he was an adjunct teaching professor at Pensacola Christian College in Pensacola, FL, where he taught music education classes and private conducting. During his career, he has been a member of the Florida Bandmasters Association, directed several all state band clinics across the country and been an adjudicator at various music competitions. He and his wife enjoy traveling, working in their church, and most of all spending time with their children, and 10 grandchildren and their spouses.

'79 Mike McEniry, BM, Rockford, retired from teaching at Mason City High School after over 37 years in public education and retired from teaching at Waldorf University after four years of teaching there. He is currently teaching private brass students in his home studio. Since

March 2022, he has been collecting, repairing and purchasing band instruments, recorders, guitars, lesson books, band arrangements, various teaching materials, various teaching supplies and financial donations for a mission project to start an instrumental music program in La Victoire, Haiti, with the help and assistance from First Covenant Church in Mason City.

1980s

'82 Stacy (Roberts) Ingraham, BA, MA '92, Carver, MN, published a memoir titled *The Untold Toll of a Wrongful Conviction* in May 2023.

'84 Keith Benjamin, MM, Kansas City, MO, toured the U.K. with organist Melody Strees in June and July 2023. He retired from UMKC Conservatory in Sept. 2023.

2000s

'08 Dan Black, BM, MA '17, ASC '18, Council Bluffs, was named a finalist for the 2024 Iowa Teacher of the Year. He is a music teacher for Council Bluffs Community School District.

2010s

'12 Spencer Walrath, BA, Glenview, IL, is the system director for corporate reputation for NorthShore University HealthSystem in Chicagoland.

'13 Faith Hall, BM, Columbia, MO, is a newly appointed Assistant Professor of Music Education at Louisiana State University.

'13 Jessica Dunnick, BM, Hiawatha, received the Dr. Robert E. and Phyllis M. Yager Exemplary Teaching Recognition Award. The award aims to highlight UNI graduates who have gone on to excel as a K-12 educator. Dunnick was also accepted to present at the upcoming national American Orff Schulwerk Association (AOSA) conference in Nov. 2024.

'15 Ben Owen, BM, Cincinnati, OH, won the 2023 John Ness Beck Foundation Award for composers of sacred choral music.

'16 Colin Wilson, BA, Iowa City, received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice in Aug. 2023 from the University of Iowa. His submitted thesis/recording project was titled: *Beyond Ev'ry Valley: A Tenor's Guide to Oratorio Arias and Recitatives Beyond the Standards*.

Births

'12 Larry Guadagnoli, BA, and Jordan Brunsmas, BA '11, BA '17, Mason City, son Maxwell Steven born Nov. 2022. 🎵

Submit Your Updates!

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

Final Cadence

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

The School of Music was deeply saddened by the loss of **David Dunn**. David passed away unexpectedly as the result of a heart attack on March 19, 2024. Born in Colorado Springs, Colorado, David earned a bachelor's degree from Augustana College, and a master's degree from Amherst College. David served the School of Music in the role of Piano Maintenance Technician and Coordinator from 2011-2024. He also served as adjunct instructor of string bass at UNI in 2006-07, and as a faculty member for the UNI Jazz Combo Camp from 2001 to 2007. David was an incredible colleague and dear friend to so many in the School of Music community, and he will be dearly missed.

The School of Music is also mourning the loss of Professor Emeritus **Jon Hansen**, who passed away on Sept. 21, 2023. Jon Hansen joined the faculty at UNI in 1969 teaching trombone, low brass, low brass techniques and brass literature. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from UNI (BA '61, MA '65). Hansen studied trombone privately with Frank Crisafulli, Chicago Symphony, Henry Smith, Minnesota Orchestra, Lewis Van Haney, Indiana University, and Arnold Jacobs of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He performed as a trombonist with the Northern Brass Quintet throughout his

tenure at UNI and with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra for over 30 years. Prior to joining the UNI music faculty, Jon taught instrumental music in several of Iowa's schools and at Dickinson State College in North Dakota. Jon retired from UNI in 1993 and became active as a naturalist, ecologist and amateur geologist, all while continuing to be a huge supporter of the School of Music, alongside his wife of 63 years, Marilyn. Jon was inducted into the Curtiss-Fullerton Hall of Fame in the UNI School of Music in 2013. His impact was great, and his legacy will live on in the School of Music and far beyond.

Another huge loss to the School of Music community was the loss of Professor Emeritus **A. John "Jack" Holstad**, who passed away May 13, 2024. Jack served on the faculty in the School of Music at UNI from 1962 to 1999. Following his time at UNI, Jack continued to teach privately, and enjoyed travel. Jack was a generous supporter of the School of Music and the arts throughout his life. The A. John Holstad Endowed Piano Scholarship at UNI has been established in his honor. For more information on contributing to the endowment in Jack's honor, please contact Dan Breitbach in UNI Foundation at 319-273-7727.

'46 Lois (Apel) Sellon, BA,
died 3/25/2024 in Nora Springs, IA.

'49 Marjorie (Henry) Juel, BA,
died 11/24/2023 in San Luis Obispo, CA.

'49 Elinor (Engelhorn) Meyer, BA,
died 9/3/2023 in Pipe Creek, TX.

'50 Louise (McMains) McNelly, BA,
died 3/3/2024 in St. Joseph, MI.

'54 Gloria (Gillis) Lewis, BA,
died 11/9/2023 in Jesup, IA.

'56 Jere Graetz, BA, MA '68,
died 10/28/2023 in Burnsville, MN.

'57 Patricia (Hansen) Braynard, BA,
died 3/27/2023 in GA.

'58 Larabeth (Folsom) Bader, BA,
died 10/24/2023 in Dysart, IA.

'58 Ardella (Cullen) Hein, BA, MA '70,
died 4/26/2024 in West Des Moines, IA.

'63 Judy (Rehder) Filean, BA,
died 2/14/2024 in West Des Moines, IA.

'64 James Franklin, MA,
died 8/23/2023.

'64 Carol (Christians) Hansuld, BA,
died 7/13/2023 in Seminole, FL.

'64 Joyce (Paul) Livermore, BA, MA '70,
died 8/25/2023 in Nashua, IA.

'70 Lynnette (Strait) Dunn, BA,
died 1/23/2024 in Ankeny, IA.

'70 Paul Renaud, BA,
died 2/4/2024 in Davenport, IA.

'70 Ray Russell, BA,
died 9/25/2023.

'70 Richard Stendel, BA, MA '81,
died 1/24/2024 in Minneapolis, MN.

'71 James Dewitt, BA,
died 9/5/2023 in Eaton, OH.

'72 Phyllis (Crosby) Gronberg, BA,
died 11/3/2023 in Hillsboro, OR.

'72 Dan Merchant, BA, MA '83,
died 1/10/2024 in Ankeny, IA.

'75 Raygena (Klaaren) Garringer, BA,
died 8/17/2023 in Williamsburg, IA.

'76 Janice Conrads, BM,
died 10/27/2023 in Cedar Falls, IA.

'78 Ronald Oppedahl, BM,
died 7/19/2022 in San Pedro, CA.

'86 Terry Shay, BM, MA '99,
died 9/28/2023 in Waterloo, IA.

'00 Meridie (Williams) Burger, BA,
died 5/28/2023 in Des Moines.

'07 Zach Johnson, BA,
died 9/1/2023 in Santa Clarita, CA.



Going Places

Recent Graduates: Plans and Honors

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 throughout the world. 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:

Emma Anderson, MM Performance, Violin (2024), will pursue a DMA in violin performance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Madeline Echnacht, BM Performance, Clarinet (2024), will pursue a masters in clarinet performance at the University of Kansas.

Turner Sperry, BM Performance, Cello (2024), will pursue a masters in cello performance at Florida State University.

Aubrey Williamson, BM Performance, Flute (2024), will pursue a masters in flute performance and pedagogy at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Starting careers/new positions:

Logan Neifert, BA Jazz Studies (2024), will join the Navy Field Band.

Donovan Klutho, BM Performance, Tuba (2021), will join the US Navy Band Concert/Ceremonial Band tuba section as Musician 1st class.

Claudia Restrepo, MM Conducting (2013), has been appointed Assistant Principal Librarian of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. 🎵



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Joel Waggoner

Not many Iowa natives can say they've gotten the chance to share the big screen with multi-Academy Award-winning actress Meryl Streep — but UNI alum Joel Waggoner can. Waggoner recently appeared as the pianist in the Emmy-nominated Hulu show *Only Murders in the Building* alongside Streep and other A-list celebrities.

"I got to conduct her for a day in the show, and that was surreal," said Waggoner. "She's a pro. All those people — Meryl Streep, Steve Martin, Martin Short — are lovely and hardworking and kind. I learned that you don't have to be those things, but it really helps. Seeing people who are at the top of their game being that gracious and patient and kind makes you want to be a better person. You could tell they felt lucky to be there."

The offer to play this role came at just the right time for Waggoner. He had been living in Iowa for a few years after moving back from New York when the pandemic hit and was about to give up on entertaining.

"I had depleted any opportunity ideas that I thought I'd had," he said. "The well had run dry. Then *Only Murders in the Building* happened, and it really changed the trajectory of my life and year. So, I realized how important it is to stay steady, and things will happen. You really do have to stick it out for a while."

Waggoner says the role was helpful for his career because it made him more recognizable to people in the industry and gave him an important TV credit on his resume that can help him get more high-caliber entertainment opportunities. It also allowed him to forge and solidify professional relationships.

Waggoner grew up in Waterloo. He learned how to play the piano at an early age, followed by the violin and the oboe. He was also heavily involved in community theater, which he credits for giving him confidence and a strong work ethic.

By the time Waggoner graduated high school, he was convinced he wanted to pursue musical theater.

Initially, he did not want to go to UNI where his father Mike was a faculty member. He wanted a change.

At first, the plan was to stick it out at UNI for a semester. But one semester turned into 10.

"I went and made lifelong friends and then just didn't leave for five years!" he said.

Waggoner started out majoring in music education but quickly realized it wasn't a good fit. He switched to music performance for vocal music and violin.

"It's one of the best music schools in the country," said Waggoner of the UNI School of Music. "It was rigorous. It was difficult because I learned a lot. A lot was required of us. I felt really challenged, which was really important to me. I knew when I ended up going to UNI that I could always learn acting later. I knew for a fact that I wanted to be a really good musician, and I knew UNI could make me that."

While at UNI, Waggoner continued to be very engaged with theater. Looking back, he knows how special his level of involvement is.

"There were just so many different opportunities for me to go do whatever I wanted to," he said.

"I loved that. I felt valued. And I just really loved the actual value. I think I just liked being able to have access to all that stuff that you wouldn't in a bigger school potentially."

“ I felt valued. And I just really loved the actual value. ”

“ I knew for a fact that I wanted to be a really good musician, and I knew UNI could make me that. ”

Waggoner recalls being in a chorus line in *Sweeney Todd*, music directing a Best of Broadway review and performing in a Best of Broadway review. When he later taught undergraduate students in New York, he realized that many of his students would be lucky if they played an ensemble role on a mainstage show once during their four-year program. It made him appreciate UNI's smaller size allowing him so many cool opportunities.

After graduating from UNI in 2008, Waggoner moved out to New York to get his master's degree. He ended up living there for more than a decade. During that time, he wrote songs, taught voice lessons, played piano for auditions and music directed. He even performed in two Broadway shows, *School of Rock* and *Be Chill*.

Even with these accomplishments, Waggoner is no stranger to imposter syndrome. He's had to learn to believe others when they tell him he's done well.

A major turning point in his mindset came very recently when he performed at the Gallagher Bluedorn, alongside the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, for a musical New Year's Eve party. Although Waggoner had performed at the Gallagher both as a student and an alum, it was his first time performing as himself.

“I did that in front of my hometown,” he said. “Every teacher I've ever had was there. I was very myself, warts and all. Was it perfect? No. But was it me? Yes.”

As far as future projects are concerned, Waggoner believes that slump he was experiencing right before *Only Murders in the Building* is over, as he has plentiful ideas. He wants to write and perform a one-man show, write a musical that goes to Broadway, record numerous albums and finish developing a book and TV series for children.

We're proud to congratulate Joel on his extraordinary accomplishments and look forward to cheering him on in his future endeavors! 🎵

Editor's note: Thank you to Anna Flanders, University Relations, for her contribution of this article.



Photo credit: Patrick Harbron / ©Hulu / Courtesy Everett Collection

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Spotlight Series

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band

Danny Galyen & Justin Mertz, conductors
 Friday, October 4, 2024
 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One & Jazz Band Two

Christopher Merz & Michael Conrad, directors
 Friday, October 11, 2024
 7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Choirs

John Wiles & Sara Blessing, conductors
 Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024
 4:00 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

**Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
& Jazz Band One**

Erik Rohde & Christopher Merz, conductors
 Wednesday, November 13, 2024
 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Holiday Concert

Ftg. Concert Chorale, Cecilians and Jazz Band Two
 John Wiles & Michael Conrad, conductors
 Monday, December 9, 2024
 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Choirs

John Wiles & Sara Blessing, conductors
 Tuesday, March 11, 2025
 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One

Christopher Merz, director
 Friday, April 18, 2025
 7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Visiting High School Bands & UNI Wind Ensemble

Danny Galyen, conductor
 Tuesday, April 22, 2025
 Visiting bands: 6 p.m., Wind Ensemble: 7:30 p.m.
 Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band Two

Michael Conrad, director
 Friday, April 25, 2025
 7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Symphonic Band

Justin Mertz, conductor
 Monday, April 28, 2025
 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra

Erik Rohde, conductor
 Tuesday, May 6, 2025
 7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Tickets for individual concerts will be \$17 for adults, \$7 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.

Opportunities to Give

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

School of Music Development Fund – (220431-21)

Supports hosting alumni and friends, retirement and award activities of faculty/staff, and developing new contacts for the School, etc.

Charles and Marleta Matheson Endowed Scholarship and Artists Fund – (220469-30)

Supports scholarships for all music students.

Thomas 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.

Schultz Studio Fund – (223215-21)

Supports necessary upgrades and refurbishment of the Schultz Recording Studio.

Thank you to the following supporters, who gave to the School of Music in 2023-24:

See page 17 for Scholarship Benefit Concert donors.

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Editor's note: Thank you to Sharon Hannasch for her help with this article.

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- \$ _____ **A. John Holstad Endowed Piano Scholarship – (212964-30)**, supports scholarships for piano students.
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- \$ _____ **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.
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Snapshots



Music Education student and alumni reunion with Dr. Swanson, celebrating her retirement



School of Music alumni Juan Domínguez-Rincón, María del Pilar Serrano Pineda, Claudia Restrepo Guzmán, Gabriel Forero Villamizar, and Claudia Aizaga at Sphinx Connect in Detroit, MI



Petrichord Quintet performing on the Gallagher Bluedorn's Candlelight Concert Series



Bateria de Samba at the UNI Homecoming Parade




The trumpet section of the Iowa Women's Jazz Orchestra, all UNI alumni! L to R: Kelli Swehla, Morgan Eadie, their UNI professor Randy Grabowski, Toni (Hoffman) Lefebre, and Leah (Schmidt) Grant




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