



BAYLOR

School of Music

Semper Pro Musica

April 2016 Newsletter

School of Music to present Brahms's *A German Requiem* on President's Concert

The combined mixed choirs of the Baylor School of Music Choral Program will partner with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra on Johannes Brahms's *A German Requiem* on Saturday, April 30, 2016, at 7:30 pm in Jones Concert Hall. Lynne Gackle, Interim Director of Choral Activities, and Stephen Gusukuma, Lecturer in Choral Music, have been working with Baylor's A Cappella Choir and Concert Choir in the preparation of this masterpiece of the choral/orchestral repertoire. **Stephen Heyde**, Director of the Baylor Symphony Orchestra, will conduct the final rehearsals and the performance.

The featured vocal soloists for this performance are both graduates of the Baylor School of Music. **Kiri Josephson Deonarine** (soprano) has received outstanding reviews for her work at the Chicago Lyric Opera and at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. **Thomas Cannon** (baritone) has sung in Carnegie Hall and done internships with the Glimmerglass Festival, Dallas Opera, and Santa Fe Opera.

For ticket information on the President's Concert, contact the School of Music for ticket information: 254-710-3571.

Our Students

Semper Pro Musica Competition Winners Announced

The School of Music is pleased to announce the winners of the 2016 *Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition*. The 2015-16 academic year was the first year for this two-round competition. The final round of the competition was held on February 27, 2016. The judges for the finals included Ian Davidson (Regents' and University Distinguished Professor of Oboe from Texas State University), Michelle Schumann (Professor of Piano from Mary Hardin Baylor), and Darren Woods (General Director of the Fort Worth Opera).

The winners of this competition will perform in a Winners' Recital at 7:30 pm on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. Admission will be free. A dessert reception will follow the performance.

Solo Competition Winners

Chandler Davis, saxophone, is a sophomore music education major who graduated in 2014 from Rowlett High School in Rowlett, Texas. He has played most prominently under the direction of Jim Palmer, Kevin Rainey, Ben Sumrak, and Phil Alvarado. He received private instruction from Kevin Mc Nerney and Joey Reséndez and currently studies with Dr. Michael Jacobson and Ricardo Chávez. Chandler has performed with the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Wind Symphony under the direction of Nicholas Williams in the Dallas area, and the 2013 Texas Bandmasters Association convention. He has also performed in multiple TMEA All-Region and All-State ensembles under the direction of educators such as Frank Ticheli, Steve Davis, Isaiah Odajima, and Micah Bell. Notable performances include the 2014 Midwest Clinic with the Baylor Wind Ensemble, solo and chamber performances at the 2015 North American Saxophone Alliance conference at Oklahoma University in Norman, and local performances through school outreach programs. Chandler will perform *Concertino da Camera* by Jacques Ibert on the Winners' Recital.

Jared Dickerson, trombone, has been involved with music since he was in elementary school, where he first started with piano lessons. His true passion was realized in the sixth grade, when he started playing the trombone. Jared successfully competed for positions in the All-Region ensembles in addition to the All-State Symphony Orchestra during his senior year of high school. He currently studies trombone with Brent Phillips at Baylor. As a soloist, he has competed and won numerous solo and chamber competitions, including the Eastern Trombone Workshop Quartet and Solo Competitions, Big XII Trombone Solo Competition, Fort Worth Trombone Summit Solo and Quartet competitions, and the International Trombone Association's Gagliardi Solo Competition. As an orchestral musician, he has performed with the Round Top Festival Orchestra, Hot Springs Music Festival Orchestra, and the AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria. After he graduates from Baylor in May of 2016, Jared will move to Los Angeles to attend the Colburn Conservatory. On the *Semper Pro Musica* Winners' Recital, he will perform *Piece in E-flat minor* by Guy Ropartz.

Andrew Eaton, baritone, is a senior choral music education major and student of Dr. Robert Best. Andrew has performed the roles of Alidoro in *La Cenerentola* and the Four Villains in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* during the 2015 season at Opera in the Ozarks, as well as Claudio in Opera NEO's 2014 production of Handel's *Agrippina* where he was praised by *San Diego Story* for the "suave contours and warmth" of his voice. With the Baylor Opera Theatre, Andrew has been featured in such roles as Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore*, Hortensius in *Daughter of the Regiment*, and The Judge in *Trial by Jury*. As a concert soloist, Andrew's repertoire includes Schubert's *Mass*

in G, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Monteverdi's *1610 Vespers*, and Fauré's *Requiem*. He recently made his concert debut in Europe, singing the baritone solos in Duruflé's *Requiem* with the Baylor A Cappella Choir at the Caen Cathédrale du St. Étienne. On the *Semper Pro Musica* Winners' Recital, Andrew will perform *Quatre chansons de Don Quichotte* by Jacques Ibert.

Mia Orosco, violin, is a multiple state and national fiddle champion, in addition to being a classical violinist studying with Eka Gogichashvili at Baylor University. Mia grew up in Lorena, Texas, and began studying classical violin at age six. She has performed and soloed with many ensembles around the country, including the National Repertory Orchestra, American Institute of Musical Studies Orchestra in Graz, Austria, and the Round Top Festival Orchestra. In 2011, Mia was featured on the classical radio show *From the Top*. In 2012, she won the National Fiddle Championship, becoming the youngest female ever to do so. Mia is currently teaching classical violin and fiddle at the Central Texas String Academy, performing with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra as concertmaster, and will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance. Mia will perform the first movement of *Concerto in D minor* by Jean Sibelius on the *Semper Pro Musica* Winners' Recital.

Spencer Sosnowski, saxophone, is a junior music education major from Heath, Texas. In 2013, he graduated from Rockwall-Heath High School, where he studied with Joey Reséndez and Ryan Palmer. Spencer was a member of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Wind Symphony from 2011 to 2013, playing under the direction of Nicholas Williams. He was a three-time All-State band member—on baritone saxophone in 2010 and alto saxophone in 2012 and 2013. He was a winner of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band Concerto Competition and performed as a soloist with the ensemble in March of 2013. At Baylor, Spencer studies with Dr. Michael Jacobson. He has performed with the Baylor Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphony Orchestra. After student teaching and graduating in the fall of 2017, he plans to pursue teaching and performing in the Dallas area. On the *Semper Pro Musica* Winners' Recital, Spencer will perform *Klonos* by Piet Swerts.

Bonnie Wang is currently a sophomore piano performance major at Baylor University, where she is studying with Krassimira Jordan. Prior to attending Baylor, she studied with Anna Habicht in El Paso, Texas. She was a finalist in the TMTA piano competition, winner of the El Paso Baroque competition, and winner of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestra competition. She has attended master classes with Dena Jones, Laura Spitzer, and Pavlina Dokovska. Bonnie has also studied with Paul Barnes, Wolfgang Watzinger, and Krassimira Jordan at the International Piano Academy in Vienna, and she has performed in the Kaisersaal in Vienna. On the *Semper Pro Musica* Winners' Recital, Bonnie will perform *Chaconne* by Sofia Gubaidulina.

Chamber Competition Winners

Lagan Percussion consists of Ricky Bracamontes, Taylor Davis, James Ferris, and Daniel Strange. The inception of this ensemble came about through the *Semper Pro Musica* Competition and their involvement with the Baylor Percussion Group. The goal of this ensemble is to play significant percussion works and also collaborate with composers to write new works for percussion. The group loves playing chamber music because of the ownership they are able to have over the music, and how percussion music often includes “found sounds” instead of typical instrumentation. These “found sounds” help to give a piece like *Third Construction* by John Cage the group’s unique stamp in the musical decisions to which they come via rehearsal and performance.

Morpheme Saxophone Quartet, under the guidance of Dr. Michael Jacobson, is among the foremost chamber music groups from Baylor University. In addition to being selected as one of the winners of the *Semper Pro Musica* Competition, the group was chosen to represent the woodwind area for the Dean’s Honor Concert. By definition, a morpheme is the smallest unit of a language that carries significant meaning. Likewise, the Morpheme Quartet takes pride in their ability to bring out seemingly small musical moments and make them impactful. The members of the quartet are all junior music majors. Patrick Lenz is majoring in composition, while Spencer Sosnowski, Mollie McInnis, and Mitchell Brackett are all music education majors. On the *Semper Pro Musica* Winners’ Recital, the group will perform *Memory* by Marcelo Zarvos.

URSA String Quintet first began working together in the string chamber music program at Baylor University. The group is composed of Eric Bowser and Emily Owens (violin), Ricardo Gómez and Tracie Walker (viola), and Christopher Bedoya (cello). As a winning ensemble in the *Semper Pro Musica* Competition, the members of the URSA string quintet are excited to present music from one of the most revered masterpieces in the chamber music repertoire. Intended to be Brahms’s last published composition, the String Quintet in G major, Op. 111, is one of his most passionate and difficult chamber works. The members of the URSA String Quintet are all string music majors in the Baylor University School of Music and are coached by Dr. Kathryn Steely.

Our Faculty

Kae Hosoda-Ayer and **Kathryn Steely** have collaborated on a CD release that contains a charming five-movement work by German composer Franz Schmidt (1874-1939), his *Quintet in A major for Piano left-hand, Clarinet, Violin, Viola, and Cello*. Musicians featured on this recording are pianist Kae Hosoda-Ayer, clarinetist Christopher Ayer, violinist Jennifer Dalmas, violist Kathryn Steely, and cellist Evgeni Raychev. This performance was recorded in June of 2014 at Baylor University. The project was funded partially by the Baylor University Research Committee and the

Stephen F. Austin State University Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. To learn more about this recording and to order a copy visit:

http://www.amazon.com/Schmidt-Quintet-left-hand-Clarinet-Violin/dp/B01BLVEEYO/ref=sr_1_85?ie=UTF8&qid=1457976333&sr=8-85&keywords=Franz+Schmidt

Milestones

Russell Gavin has been promoted to Associate Professor of Instrumental Music Education with tenure. His duties at Baylor include teaching undergraduate and graduate music education courses, as well as supervising student teachers. His publications have appeared in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, the *International Journal of Music Education*, *Psychology of Music*, the *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, *Southwestern Musician*, and the *Florida Music Director*.

Michele Henry has been promoted to Full Professor of Choral Music Education. She continues to serve as the Division Director for Music Education. A member of the Baylor faculty since 2001, Dr. Henry teaches choral methods and music education courses and supervises student teachers. She advises the Baylor University Music Educators Association and coordinates the annual Baylor Women's Choir Festival. A specialist in vocal sight-reading materials, techniques, and assessment, Dr. Henry is published widely within the music education literature, and she regularly presents her research findings regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Jeffrey Peterson, pianist and vocal coach, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Peterson has appeared in recitals and master classes on five continents, with such important operatic artists as Martina Arroyo, James King, and Teresa Kubiak, in venues as far-reaching as Hoam Hall in Seoul, the Marian Anderson Festival and Competition, and Manaus, Brazil. He has performed throughout the United States with flutists Francesca Arnone, Valerie Potter, and Tadeu Coelho. Dr. Peterson has taught at Indiana University, the University of Illinois, the University of Akron, and served on the Opera Studies faculty at Northwestern University for five years.

New Faculty

Joseph Li, pianist and vocal coach, will join the School of Music vocal faculty as an Assistant Professor beginning with the Fall 2016 semester. Mr. Li has served as Artist Teacher of Opera Studies in the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University since 2011. He has served as coach and chorus master for Wolf Trap Opera Company's *Carmen* at the Filene Center, as well as playing WTOC's multi-genre Vocal Colors program at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. Mr. Li also served as conductor and pianist for Houston Grand Opera's commemoration of the 75th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, featuring a new work by HGO alumnus David Hanlon. Other engagements included recitals with soprano Tamara Wilson and bass-baritone Ryan McKinny and performing with the Houston Ballet and the

Houston Chamber Choir. In recent summer seasons Joseph Li served as music director for *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Roméo et Juliette* for the Bar Harbor Music Festival. He also was coach and chorus master for the Wolf Trap Opera Company's *Don Giovanni* and pianist for WTOC's Vocal Colors. Mr. Li has regularly performed in cabaret and jazz settings, as well as at such venues as the Dallas Museum of Art, the Cullen Theater, and Ovations Night Club.

Jerry McCoy will join the School of Music as Visiting Professor of Choral Music beginning with the Fall 2016 semester. At Baylor, he will conduct A Cappella Choir and teach graduate courses in choral conducting/literature. Dr. McCoy recently retired as Director of Choral Studies and Regents Professor of Music at the University of North Texas, where he conducted the A Cappella Choir, the North Texas Chamber Choir, and Grand Chorus. He also taught graduate choral conducting and advanced choral techniques and guided the choral studies program. Dr. McCoy is the founding artistic director/conductor of Texas Choral Artists. In addition, he is editor of the Jerry McCoy Choral Music Series for Santa Barbara Music Publishers and associate resident conductor for Mid-America Productions. In recent years, Dr. McCoy served as the President of the American Choral Directors Association. He has been a guest conductor for the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, the New England Symphonic Ensemble (Mid-America Productions), the renowned Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the Wichita (Kansas) Chamber Chorale, and the Wichita Falls (Texas) Symphony Orchestra. He has sung and recorded with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers in New York City and throughout southern France, and with the Banff (Canada) Festival Chamber Choir, led by distinguished Swedish conductor Eric Ericson. He has also served as guest clinician in Sweden for Musik I Vasternorland, the University of Luleå Musikhögskolan, and the Luleå Kammerkor, as well as the Association of British Choral Directors and Coro Dialecto Urbano (Caracas, Venezuela). Jerry McCoy is one of the world's most respected guest clinicians, having conducted all-state, regional, and festival choirs and performance clinics in thirty-three states across the nation.

Our Alumni

Joy Haslam Calico (BM, 1988) has been appointed editor of the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*. Professor of Musicology and Director of the Max Kade Center for European and German Studies at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Calico pursues interdisciplinary research concerning Cold War cultural politics and opera. She is the author of two monographs, *Arnold Schoenberg's 'A Survivor from Warsaw' in Postwar Europe* (University of California Press, 2014) and *Brecht at the Opera* (University of California Press, 2008). Recent publications include "Old-Age Style: The Case of Arnold Schoenberg" in *New German Critique*, No. 125 (August 2015) and chapters in *Dislocated Memories: Jews, Music, and Postwar German Culture* and *The Oxford Handbook of Opera*, both published by Oxford University Press, 2014. Dr. Calico serves on the editorial board of *Brecht Yearbook/Brecht Jahrbuch* and is co-founder and coordinator with David Imhoof of the Music and Sound Studies

Network of the German Studies Association, for which she serves on the Executive Board.

Matt Stott (BME, 2000) is conductor of the Vero Beach High School Symphony Orchestra in Florida. In early February, Dr. Bruce Berg, Baylor professor of violin, traveled to Florida to hear the Vero Beach High School Symphony Orchestra and help celebrate recognition of Matt's fifteen years of orchestral teaching at the school. At the concert, Matt was presented with a generous check to support the orchestra from funds donated by a grateful community. Dr. Berg taught a master class while he was there, and in this photo he is seen (center) with Mr. Stott (left) and the three students who performed in the master class. In 2010, Matt received the Outstanding Music Education Alumni award given by the Baylor School of Music. In recent years, the Vero Beach High School Orchestra was the first place winner at the American String Teachers Association National Orchestra Festival in Kansas City and has performed at the Capital Orchestra Festival in Washington, D.C.

In Memoriam

Steven Stucky, a prominent Baylor University music alumnus, has passed away at the age of sixty-six. Dr. Stucky, one of the most successful and widely performed American composers of his time, died of brain cancer at his home in Ithaca, New York, on Sunday, February 14, 2016. Steven Stucky won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his *Second Concerto for Orchestra* and received commissions from many American orchestras, including Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and St. Paul. He was long associated with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he was resident composer from 1988 to 2009, the longest such affiliation in U.S. orchestral history. Besides his Pulitzer-winning concerto, some of Dr. Stucky's other noteworthy compositions were the symphonic poem *Radical Light* (2007), *Rhapsodies for Orchestra* (2008), the oratorio *August 4, 1964* (2008), and *Symphony* (2012). For the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, he composed *Silent Spring*, in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of Rachel Carson's book of the same title. He teamed with the renowned pianist and author Jeremy Denk to create his first opera, *The Classical Style* (based on the celebrated book by Charles Rosen), which premiered in June 2014 at the Ojai Music Festival.

Steven Stucky was born on November 7, 1949, in Hutchinson, Kansas. At age nine, he moved with his family to Abilene, Texas, where, as a teenager, he studied music in the public schools and, privately, viola with Herbert Preston, conducting with Leo Scheer, and composition with Macon Sumerlin. At Baylor University, he studied composition with Richard Willis and conducting with Daniel Sternberg. His other principal composition teachers were Robert Palmer and Karel Husa. Dr. Stucky was Given Foundation Professor of Composition at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he founded Ensemble X and led it from 1997 until 2006. He also taught at Eastman and Berkeley, the latter as Ernest Bloch Professor in 2003. In 2014, he

became Professor Emeritus at Cornell and joined the composition faculty at the Juilliard School.

Our Future

Board of Advocates

On April 22, 2016, the School of Music will host the first meeting of the Baylor University School of Music Board of Advocates. The board will be composed of alumni, business, and professional leaders who are committed to the vitality of the School of Music at Baylor University. The Board will help the School of Music to strengthen its educational, creative, research, and outreach programs, improve its facilities, expand its base of support, and serve its alumni. Specifically, the SOM Board of Advocates members are asked:

- To **provide advice** from the perspective of alumni, professionals in the field, supporters, and friends regarding the development and advancement of the School;
- To **provide a connection** between our faculty and students on campus and the various businesses and professions represented by the members;
- To **provide leadership** in visioning and articulating a path forward so that the SOM can align with the School's *Semper Pro Musica* plans for the future;
- To **give meaningfully** and cultivate others to support the Baylor School of Music as their interest in music aligns with the School's needs.

The inaugural group of advocates will include Oliver and Greta Abtahi, Babs Baugh, Wayne Fisher, Ben Gatzke, Georgia Green, Giancarlo Guerrero, Carey and Stacie Hendrickson, Kurt Kaiser, Trammell Kelly, Lyndon Olson, Jr., Allison Peterson, Nathan and Michal Taylor, James Williams, and Betty Wilson.

2017 Semper Pro Musica Winners Recital at Carnegie Hall

On Thursday, May 25, 2017, the *Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition Winners' Recital* will take place in Weill Recital Hall in the Carnegie Hall Complex in New York City. Approximately ten students from the school of music (3% of the School of Music student body) will give their Carnegie Hall debuts in one of the most elegant and historically significant performance spaces in the world of music. More information on this event will be available on the School of Music website and will be published in future School of Music E-Newsletters.

Our Calendar

The School of Music presents more than 350 performances each year, the vast majority of which are free to the public. To view our schedule, visit:

<http://www.baylor.edu/music/index.php?id=863427>

To receive a weekly schedule of School of Music events, contact Richard Veit:

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