

## Fall 2018 News

### Crane School of Music News

#### Premiere of *Mayo*

One of the highlights of the fall semester was the world premiere by the Crane Opera Ensemble of *Mayo*, by **Tom Cipullo** (November 9-11, 2018). The opera is based on the true story of Mayo Buckner, who at the age of eight was unjustly committed to a state institution, and lived a quiet life of dignity there for sixty years. Cipullo's opera was commissioned by the Crane School through the Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize.

Mr. Cipullo worked closely with the opera program, and was on campus for a number of opera rehearsals, masterclasses, and other sessions. On September 20, Crane faculty presented an evening of songs by Cipullo, with narration by Crane musicologist **Erin Brooks** and special guest, poet **Robert Cole**.

For the opera, guest artist, soprano **Lisa Vroman** ('79), sang the role of Miss Goodrich. Ms. Vroman was also the Community Performance Series' 35th Annual McElheran Visiting Artist, performing on the Snell Theatre stage September 22 and 23. We also welcomed guest artist **Ben Edquist**, who performed the title role.

Stage direction for *Mayo* was provided by **Dean Anthony**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Opera. Crane Professor **Kirk Severtson** was the opera's musical director and conducted the pit orchestra.



## Chancellor's Inauguration



On September 14, 2018, **Dr. Kristina Johnson** (above) was formally inaugurated as the 13<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of The State University of New York (SUNY) on Friday, September 14, 2018 at the Morris W. and Fannie B. Haft Theater at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Crane was represented by senior Music Business major **Ivan Jukic**, who sang the national anthem at the inauguration. Crane senior music education major **Shavon Lloyd**, accompanied by junior music education major **Chris Sarkis** (pictured below), also performed at the pre-inauguration dinner on Thursday night. We offer our congratulations to Chancellor Johnson and these wonderful Crane students.



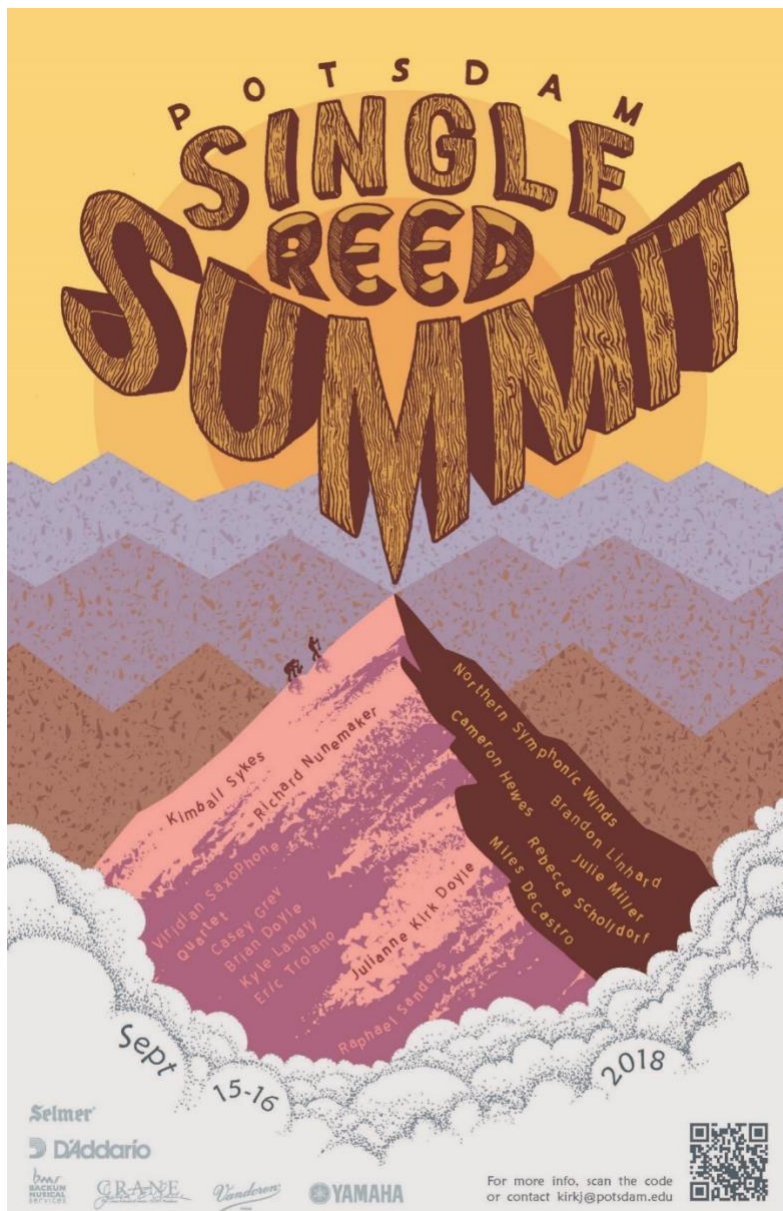
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## Potsdam Single Reed Summit

The 2018 Potsdam Single Reed Summit included guest artists **Richard Nunemaker** (bass clarinet), a former member of the Houston Symphony; **Kimball Sykes** (clarinet) of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Canada; **Kyle Landry** (saxophone) who is currently completing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Michigan State University, and **Eric Troiano** (saxophone)

who is on the faculty of the University of Arkansas. There was also an alumni recital featuring **Cameron Hewes '15** (clarinet), **Rebecca Scholldorf '15** (bass clarinet) and **Brandon Linhard '15** (piano). Crane's Instrument Technician **Miles DeCastro** presented a clinic on *Getting the Best Out of Your Clarinet*.

The Saturday evening Gala Concert with the **Northern Symphonic Winds** (conducted by Crane Professor **Brian Doyle**) featured several of the guest artists. Other events included Crane School of Music faculty member **Raphael P. Sanders Jr.**, and Crane senior **Solomon Elyaho '19**, and the **Viridan Saxophone Quartet**. The Single Reed Summit is becoming a biennial tradition, taking place in the fall during even years.



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## Music Business Roundtable

The 10th Annual Sandy Feldstein Music Business Roundtable on September 22, brought to Crane some of the makers and shakers in the industry. This year's edition welcomed **Lisa Steele-MacDonald**, Director of Marketing for Yamaha's Band & Orchestral Division; **Sergio Bonsignore** from D'Addario, leading manufacturer of musical instrument strings and accessories; **Tracy Cox**, inlay artist and luthier; and **Erich Hartmann**, New York City-based Creative Director. The discussion will be led by Crane's **Marc Ernesti**.

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## Concert Choir and Latin Ensemble Tour

The **Crane Concert Choir** and **Latin Ensemble** toured together this fall, traveling to New York City, where they have performed for over 1500 students at four schools. Both ensembles are performing the music of Cuba, in celebration of two important October anniversaries: the start of the country's wars of independence (150 years ago), and Cuban Culture Day (El Día de la Cultura Cubana). The ensembles are led by Professors Jeffrey Francom and Peter McCoy, respectively.

Special thanks to alumni **Anissa Arnold** (class of '92, Herricks High School) and **Ryan Lupka** (class of '15, PS/IS 199 The Glendal) for helping to facilitate this opportunity. Below the ensembles members in front of Herricks High School.



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## Guest Artists

As always, Crane welcomed many guests to campus this fall. Among the notable visitors was conductor **Lee Wright**, who presented multiple workshops and sessions exploring the Negro Spiritual in both historical and modern contexts. We also welcomed master drummer **Kwasi Dunyo** (pictured), who spent three days at Crane in December as the Fall 2018 Joy Anthony Douglass '56 Visiting Master Teacher. Mr. Dunyo is steeped in the drumming traditions of his native Ghana. He is member of the faculties of York University, University of Toronto, Royal Conservatory of Music, and, for a number of years, taught classes in Ghanaian drumming at Crane as part of our Master of Music summer program.



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## Alumni News

**Morgan Cluck** ('18, Music Business, voice) recently began a job as the Executive Assistant to the Artistic and Music Director, Patrick Summers, at Houston Grand Opera. Morgan just completed her final internship with the HGO this spring, and obviously impressed! She is pictured below on the left, with fellow student Jeri Barber at the 2018 NAMM show in Anaheim.



This past summer Francesca Hilditch ('18, Composition, Piano) attended the European American Musical Alliance Summer Music Institute at La Schola Cantorum in Paris. Here she took part in a curriculum designed around Nadia Boulanger's pedagogy with professors who were direct disciples of Nadia. Her classes included counterpoint, harmony, musicianship, analysis, and chorale, and her string quartet was also selected to be played in a reading session with the resident string quartet. (Below Francesca with Institute director Philip Lasser.) Then in the fall, Francesca began her Master's Composition degree at the Royal Academy of Music, London.



**Justin Moniz** ('11) began in a new position as Coordinator of Vocal Studies at Millikin University. He kicked off his first semester as the soloist for the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra 's annual Labor Day Concert.

We are proud to announce that **Paul Mardy** ('18) has been appointed Principal Clarinet of the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra by Maestro Benjamin Zander. The orchestra was founded in 2012, and is one of the most awarded youth programs in the country. Under the baton of Maestro Zander, young musicians have the opportunity to play orchestral repertoire in venues all around the world. Paul will perform in Boston Symphony Hall as well as tour Brazil with the orchestra in 2019. Paul is currently pursuing a master degree in saxophone at the New England Conservatory of Music, after spending his second summer in Cape Cod Massachusetts performing with the College Light Opera Company Orchestra. Paul earned a dual performance degree in clarinet and saxophone from Crane, in the studios of Dr. Julianne Kirk Doyle on clarinet and Dr. Casey Grev and Dr. Robert Young on Saxophone.



The 2018/19 season opening concert for the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, featured **Alexandra Shatalov Prior** ('09), performing the Mozart Oboe Concerto. Sasha, as she is known by her friends, is the principal oboist of the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra and Oboe Artist

Affiliate at Emory University, and she appears regularly in performances with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. (In addition to being an alum, Sasha also spent a year on the Crane faculty when oboe professor **Anna Hendrickson** was on a leave.)



After nearly 40 years teaching at Pioneer CSD in his hometown, Arcade, NY, **Elwyn Roll** ('75) recently retired with honors that included a resolution from the NY State Senate, sponsored by Senator Patrick Gallivan, honoring Roll for his service to his community, and the many decades he spent dedicated to teaching music to thousands of students during his tenure. He taught all grades, from kindergarten to high school. In addition to his work as choral director, he produced 27 high school musicals. Over 300 former students attended his final choral concert. During the concert, Elwyn was gifted with a special handmade wooden bench with an engraved plate with a quote from "The Giving Tree" on it. We congratulate Elwyn for all his accomplishments, and wish him well in his retirement.





Recording artist **Mikaela Davis** ('14, Harp Performance) spent much of the fall touring in Europe, with stops in Paris, Belgium, Amsterdam and the UK, and then returning to the US, all in support of her 2018 album *Delivery*. Mikaela will be returning to Crane for the 2019 LoKo Arts Festival in April.



Trombonist **Stephen Whimple** ('17), a student of Mark Hartman's at Crane, recently performed Bernstein's *Dance Suite* with the AES Five Brass Quintet with a very special collaborator: the legendary dancer **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in Manhattan. Stephen commented, "Brass quintet with choreography was a first." Stephen (on the far right in the picture below with the quintet and Baryshnikov) is currently a Master's student and Morse Teaching Fellow at The Juilliard School, studying with Joseph Alessi.



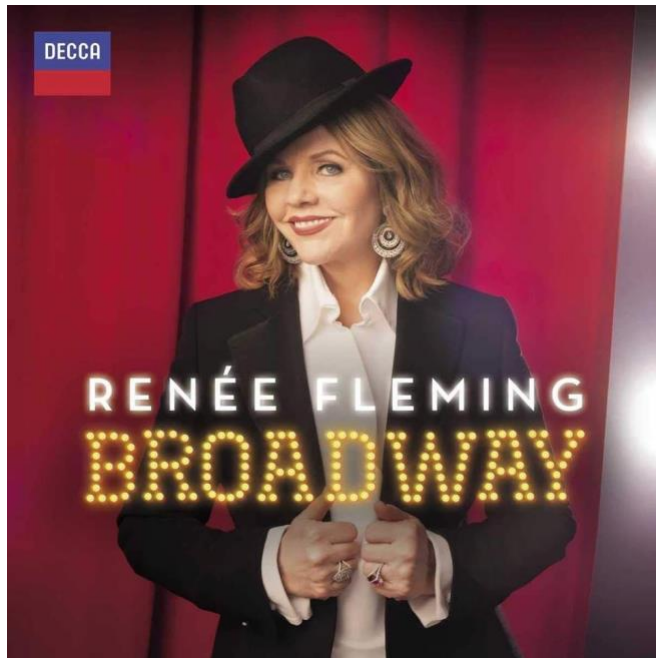
**Johnna Bernard** ('18, Music Business, voice) joined the Metropolitan Opera following graduation, where she is the Assistant to the Supernumeraries Department. This past spring, she completed her semester-long (required) Music Business internship at the Metropolitan Opera National Council, and was featured at that time in a SUNY profile [\[link to https://www.potsdam.edu/support/ssc/eo/internships/Bernard\]](https://www.potsdam.edu/support/ssc/eo/internships/Bernard). Johnna joins a growing number of Crane graduates working behind the scenes (and in front of them) at the Met.



Five Crane alumni and one current Crane student recently participated in a twelve-day performance tour of Australia with the Long Island Symphonic Winds, highlighted by a performance at the **Sydney Opera House** as part of the 2018 Australia Music Festival. The 57-piece wind ensemble, under the direction of Dr. James McRoy, was comprised of Long Island University undergraduates, graduate students and alumni, as well as students from ten other universities and invited musicians. Pictured below at the Sydney Opera House (L to R) are **Bobby Rice '18, Adam Hammer '17, Amanda Fortgang '15, Emma Nicoletti '20, Becki Watson '80, '86** and **Tim Watson '80, '85**.



After making her Broadway musical debut earlier this year in the revival production of *Carousel*, famed soprano **Renée Fleming** ('81) has released a new CD simply entitled *Broadway*. The recording features a wide range of Broadway hits from the 1920s to the present, and includes a guest duet with Leslie Odom, Jr.



We've had reason to mention **Buffet-Crampon** several times in the last few years because... well, they just keep hiring our graduates. There was another one this past summer: **Austin LaMarche** ('13). Austin joins recent alumni **Declan Lynch** ('18), **John Hylkema** ('17), **Jordan Olinsky** ('17), and **Jack Dring** ('16). Austin is a Marketing Specialist working in Toronto for Buffet's Canadian Division (alongside Division Manager Jack Dring). In between graduating from Crane and starting at Buffet, Austin earned her Master's degree in Percussion Performance from McGill University. Congrats to Austin and all our Buffet-Cranies!



This fall **Katherine Beck** ('12) was named the winner of the 2018 Mildred Miller International Voice Competition, hosted by Pittsburgh Festival Opera. A native of Bennington, Vermont, Katie was a Vocal Performance major at Crane where she studied with Professor Deborah Massell.



**Josh Emanuel** ('11) sent us a picture from his recent presentation at the Society for Music Education in Ireland's (SMEI) 8th Annual Conference held at the Royal Irish Academy of Music this past summer. Josh's workshop was on Designing Virtual Instruments with Scratch, and showcased part of the general music curriculum he is developing in his doctoral studies at New York University. In addition to being a Crane alumnus, Josh also spent a year on the Crane faculty during the 2013-2014 school year.



The Crane School of Music's Dean, **Michael Sitton**, spent a few days in November in Washington D.C. for the annual National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) meeting. While there, he attended the All-Steinway School reception and ran into Crane alum **Robert Polan** ('98). Rob has been at Steinway & Sons since 2016 after previous positions at D'Addario, Music & Arts, and other companies. Rob serves Steinway as their Director for Product Management, Music, Technology and Media. At reception, Rob presented a demonstration of Steinway's new Spirio technology, which combines Steinway's tradition of piano craftsmanship with technology enabling the live recording, playback and editing of performances on specially equipped Steinway pianos. Crane piano faculty **Young-Ah Tak** (a Steinway artist) has made a number of recordings for Steinway using the Spirio technology which Steinway is including in its catalogue of Spirio recordings.



**Christopher Gotzen-Berg** (BM Guitar Performance '01, MM '05) sent us an update on his activities. Christopher is the founder and executive director of The Legato Foundation, a nonprofit which recently received a 2019 LI NYSCA grant for Legato's Long Island Guitar Project. The Long Island Guitar project was created to provide free weekly group guitar lessons to in-need populations on Long Island. The project was launched this past September at the Freeport Memorial Library with three classes for difference age groups (young children, teenagers, adults). The Legato Foundation has raised funds to purchase guitars to provide, free of charge, for the students to use during the course of the program. Christopher does all of this while continuing on the guitar faculty of Suffolk Community College, The Stony Brook School, and the Music Institute of Long Island. Below is a picture of Christopher at the end of the first round of LIGP classes in November.



Crane alumna **Stephanie Blythe** ('92) was appointed to direct the Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard College, succeeding Dawn Upshaw, the founder of the program. Her role leading this prestigious program begins in July 2019; in announcing the appointment, Bard's President, Leon Botstein, said "the spirit and excellence established by our outstanding founding director will continue to flourish under Blythe's leadership." Ms. Blythe founded the annual Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar for young professionals in 2012, along with collaborative pianist and composer Alan Smith; she continues to direct this program in residence at Crane, which will recur in late May 2019, this year featuring guest composer John Musto. Ms. Blythe also has been generous in her visits to her alma mater, frequently providing masterclasses for Crane vocal students. She was an Honorary National Chair for SUNY Potsdam's successful "Take the Lead" campaign, which concluded in 2016 having raised \$33.5 million for the College.





Two Crane alumni, **Nick Mariani** ('15) and **Angela Bove** ('14), contacted us to let us know they had just finished their training to become Neurologic Music Therapists this past weekend! NMT is the use of music interventions based on music perception and production in the brain to influence and train sensorimotor, language/speech, and cognitive function in populations including dementia/Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease, Traumatic Brain Injury, stroke, and persons on the autism spectrum. Both Angela and Nick pursued degrees in Music Therapy after attending Crane; Nick Mariani earned his professional studies certification for Music Therapy at Shenandoah Conservatory in 2017, and Angela is currently finishing her thesis for her masters in Music Therapy at SUNY New Paltz. Nick works as a music therapist for Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care in Boston, and Angela is a music therapist at the Northeast Center for Rehabilitation and Brain Injury in Kingston, NY.



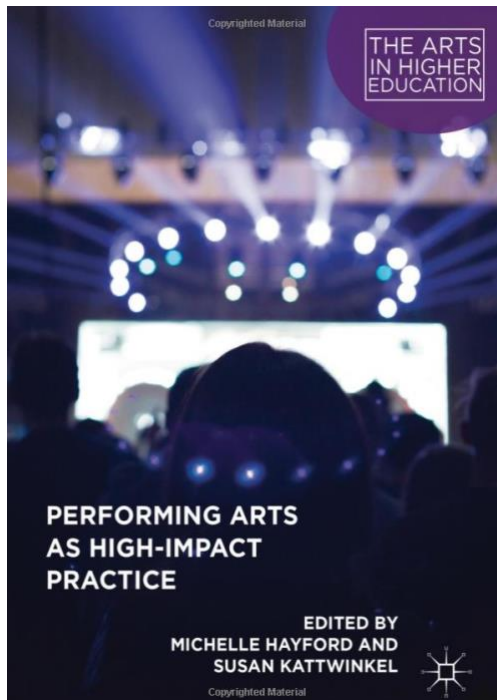
## Faculty News

The Crane School of Music was extremely pleased to share the news that two of our colleagues were appointed to SUNY Distinguished Faculty rank this fall.

**Dr. Mark Hartman** was named SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor, and **Mr. Ed Komara** was named a SUNY Distinguished Librarian. Mark and Ed's outstanding dedicated work throughout their respective careers has led to this recognition, and we congratulate them on achieving this high honor.



A new publication by Palgrave Macmillan, *Performing Arts as High-Impact Practice*, investigates how the performing arts in higher education nationally contribute to the “high impact practices” has a contribution from **Marc Ernesti**, Assistant Professor & Coordinator of Music Business. Professor Ernesti was invited to contribute a chapter on how to prepare professional musicians, drawing on his experiences in the music industry, Crane, and at the Royal Academy of Music.



In September, Assistant Professor of Music Theory **Michael Vitalino** presented at a symposium titled *Correct, but not beautiful performance: Deciphering the hidden messages in 19th century notation* held at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in Australia. Dr. Vitalino presented his paper *Discerning Liszt's compositional intent: How revisions inform interpretation*.

Assistant Professor of Music Education **Andrea Maas** presented on *Musical Expression: Making Meaning in Choral Settings* at the American Choral Directors Association's Research Symposium at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music.

Assistant Professor of Voice **Colleen Skull** (center) sent us this picture taken after her early October masterclass at Dan School of Drama and Music at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.



The 72nd annual Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago took place in December. In addition to Crane's instrument technician **Miles DeCastro's** session on *Surviving a Concert Day Woodwind Repair Emergency*, several woodwind faculty presented *Breathing Life into Your Reed Section*: clarinetist Julianne Kirk Doyle, bassoonist Carol Lowe, saxophonist Casey Grev, and oboist Anna Hendrickson. The four Crane faculty members were joined in Chicago by student members of Crane's NYSBDA chapter, who sent this picture of most of the Crane contingent.



In November, Crane music history faculty and students attended the national meeting of the American Musicological Society in San Antonio. Crane musicology faculty gave multiple presentations at the conference: Assistant Professor **Erica Levenson** presented a paper entitled *Rape and Anti-Catholic Propaganda on the London Stage: An Eighteenth-Century #MeToo?*, while Assistant Professor **Erin Brooks** presented the paper *'It is the musician behind the camera who is the soul of the picture': Music on the Sets of 'Silent' Film* and was a panelist on the session *Music, War, and Trauma in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Below, from left-to-right: Crane students Matthew Stroinski, Alexa Mani, Dr. Erin Brooks, student Adelle St. Onge at the AMS conference.



## Student News

The Crane viola studio, led by Professor **Shelly Tramposh**, went to Saratoga, NY for Viola Day, working with about two dozen students from two different districts in the area. The studio and Dr. Tramposh are pictured below, from a fall performance and outreach for the residents of Partridge Knoll in Canton.



This annual Central New York-Finger Lakes Chapter of National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) student auditions took place in October, and Crane sent a wonderful group of students to Ithaca where this event took place this year. Crane student Ben Johnson (student of Donald George) took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Classical First Year category, and Mekayla Fountaine, who is a student of Margaret Chalker, took 1st place in the High School category. Other participants included Sara Beth Lieberman, Pete Osterman, Kristina Strang (all selected for the 2nd round), Matthew Varden, Ronald St John, Rebecca Matte, Brianna Gerhardt, and Amanda DiBartolo.