

GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Classes are now in full swing this fall, and we are looking forward to a great year of making music! You'll read about all the good things going on in other places in this newsletter, but here are a few highlights.

We welcome new faculty member Dr. Damon Sink, who will be teaching in the commercial and electronic music area. He comes to us from the University of Dayton, where he helped to build a similar program. In January, Dan Gonko returns as recording engineer in the Center for Applied Technology recording studio after teaching in Elizabeth City, N.C.

On Sept. 4, Chancellor David Belcher, a concert pianist, and his wife, Susan, an operatic soprano, gave a fine performance at the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Continued on page 10



The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet Tours Jamaica

The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet made a seven-day educational tour of Jamaica this past summer. The quintet (comprised of School of Music faculty Travis Bennett on horn, Dan Cherry on trombone, Brad Ulrich on trumpet and Michael Schallock on tuba, along with WCU alum and trumpeter David Ginn, BA '92) performed six concerts in Kingston and Montego Bay for more than 7,000 Jamaican school children. In addition to performing for children in grades 1-12, the quintet also performed with a community band at Sam Sharpe Teachers' College in Montego Bay.

Along with the mission of bringing brass instruments into the schools, the quintet provided support for an already active education program through WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions. This program has been in existence for 38 years and offers instruction to Jamaican educators both in Jamaica and each summer on the WCU campus.

The SMBQ Jamaica tour included appearances at the Immaculate Conception Preparatory School, Immaculate Conception High School, and Holy Childhood High School in Kingston; and Mount Alvernia High School and Sam Sharpe Teachers' College in Montego Bay. In fact, quintet members met many Jamaican educators who graduated through the WCU Jamaica Program and had spent time on the Cullowhee campus.

Also performing on this tour was Will Peebles, director of the WCU School of Music, who performed a bassoon solo with brass quintet accompaniment at each concert.

While classical brass instruments were unusual to many of the students, music does play a major role in the everyday life of the Jamaican people, as demonstrated through student involvement during and after the performances. After many of the concerts, students initiated discussions and even played some of the instruments. Several school administrators and many of the students expressed a desire to begin school band programs. While impoverished and massively in debt, Jamaica boasts a population committed to educating their youth as a means to escape poverty, school administrators there told quintet members.

Continued on page 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Band News	2
Fall Concerts	3
Choral News	4
Bill Henigbaum	6
Faculty News	8
Student News	10
Alumni News	11

Marching Band Sports New Uniforms and Performs at BOA Indianapolis

The "Pride of the Mountains" Marching Band is very excited to begin the 2012 season building upon the traditions of the past while setting new standards of design and performance for the future. Undertaking one of the most difficult halftime shows in its history, the band will push the envelope both musically and visually. This year's halftime production is titled "How We Roll" and includes movements titled "Pop," "Lock," "Drop," "Stop" and "Roll." This show gives the audience a taste of the wide array of music the band is able to perform. The melodic design is motivated by musical "mashups" of today's pop culture that merge multiple melodies to create one composition. For example, "Pop" will feature the music of Katy Perry, Billy Joel and Tchaikovsky. "Lock" pairs Van Morrison with Brian Setzer as well as rapper VIC. "Drop" bridges cultural lines and features Asian music adapted to the percussion genre. "Stop," well ... it stops! Finally, the

band "rolls" it all into one production with Adele's "Rolling in the Deep." This show will offer everyone in our audience an opportunity to connect with our musical style while being visually inspired with fast-paced drills, digital technology and special effects never before seen on a football field. Also, the color guard is now one of the largest in the history of the band and is sure to delight audiences with its innovative performance and artistic quality.

In addition to performing at all five home games, the band will be featured in exhibition at numerous regional and national festivals. On Saturday, Sept. 29, the band will perform in both the afternoon and evening sessions at Enka High School's Land of the Sky competition. On Saturday, Oct. 20, the marching band will perform in both afternoon and evening shows at the **12th annual WCU Tournament of Champions** in E.J. Whitmire Stadium. This event will showcase more than 20 bands from the Southeast and feature the top 10 bands in evening finals competition, where a grand champion will be awarded the Chancellor's Trophy, presented by WCU Chancellor David Belcher. Visit the band's website at www.prideofthemountains.com for more information on this exciting day of performances.

The 2012 "Alumni Band" will coincide with Homecoming weekend this year, Saturday, Oct. 6, WCU vs. Georgia Southern. If you are an alumnus of the Pride of the Mountains, you are formally invited to attend this very special weekend filled with music, food, family and POTM memories. You are invited to perform with the band at pregame and will be recognized for your contribution to the university. WCU band alumnus **Sheldon Frazier** (BSED '09) will be contacting alumni and inviting them to participate in this year's event. So, dust off that instrument, rehearse your alma mater and fight song, and join us for this commemorative day at

WCU. Please visit the band's website at www.prideofthemountains.com for more information pertaining to this event.

The "Pride of the Mountains" will travel to Indianapolis to perform by special invitation at the Bands of America Grand National Championships, Nov. 8-10. This event will showcase the top 90 high school bands in America, and the WCU marching band will serve as the exhibition band for two performances as well as perform the National Anthem before the National Championship finals begin. This event will take place in Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts, before a crowd of 30,000-plus spectators comprised of high school band students, their parents and marching band fans. There is no other event that will allow the WCU marching band and School of Music this kind of publicity and exposure in one all-inclusive environment. It is an honor, as well as an obligation, to represent the university and the School of Music on this national stage.

Another exciting bit of news this year is the unveiling of the band's new uniforms. According to director Dr. David Starnes, the brand-new look has a more contemporary design and illustrates the current WCU logo and Catamount. Purple and gold dominate the bright new concept, trimmed in white. Up close, the look is classy, with an edge of "attitude," that emphatically says "Pride of the Mountains." From a distance, it gives the band an appearance that will allow the visual program to be clear and intriguing while offering multidimensional looks from front, side and back angles. The members are excited about the uniform design and tailored fit, allowing for even greater opportunities for visual emphasis and choreographed moves.

David Starnes, Matt Henley and Jon Henson, along with the entire staff and student membership of "POTM" hope to see YOU at a performance in 2012! Come see and hear "How We Roll!"





WIND ENSEMBLE PLANS TOUR, PERFORMS IN ASHEVILLE

The WCU Wind Ensemble, under the direction of John T. West since 1985, comprises of around 50 student musicians, most of whom are music majors. Membership in the group is open to all students by audition, which takes place at the start of every semester. The ensemble rehearses twice a week and performs a series of concerts both on and off campus. The first concert of the year is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9, in the Bardo Arts Center. This concert, themed “A British Isles Travelogue,” will include “A Manx Overture” by Haydn Wood, “Four Scottish Dances” by Malcolm Arnold, “Thames Journey” by Nigel Hess, “Moorside March” by Gustav Holst and “Lincolnshire Posy” by Percy Grainger.

Throughout the many years under the direction of Dr. West, the group has premiered a number of new band works and will take part in another premiere this

year – a clarinet concerto by composer James David entitled “Auto ‘66.” This will feature WCU’s clarinet professor Shannon Thompson as soloist, on December 4. The rather curious title refers to three different classic automobiles from 1966. The first movement is *Lamborghini Miura*, the second *Mini Cooper* and the final movement *Pontiac G.T.O.* Also on the program will be Rosano Gallante’s “Resplendent Glory,” Morton Lauridsen’s beautiful “O Magnum Mysterium” and the monumental “Symphony No. 2” by Frank Ticheli.

The Wind Ensemble is planning its spring semester concert tour to high schools in the Winston-Salem and Raleigh areas, Feb. 27-March 1. Also during the spring semester, the ensemble will be performing a concert in Asheville at the Diana Wortham Theatre. Be sure to look for details of that performance in the coming months.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE IN FULL SWING

WCU Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Pavel Wlosok, presented a concert tour last March 14-16. Performance venues included A.C. Reynolds High School in Asheville, W.A. Hough High School in Cornelius, Northwest Cabarrus High School in Concord, Patton High School and Freedom High School in Morganton.

The band will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, at the Coulter Building recital hall, and will host the annual WCU Jazz Fest on Saturday, April 27, 2013. This festival will include two outstanding high school bands to be adjudicated, nationally known guest artists and clinicians, the WCU Jazz Ensemble and WCU artist faculty in concert. Don’t miss this great annual event!

WCU HOSTS ALL-DISTRICT BAND

On Friday, Feb. 8, and Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013, more than 350 middle and high school musicians will gather on WCU’s campus for the annual All-District Band event, featuring four clinic bands – two middle school and two high school. The guest clinicians include Joe Allison (Eastern Kentucky University, conducting the 11-12 band), Andrea Brown (Georgia Tech, conducting the 9-10 band), Joni Mabry Brown (retired from Bates Middle School, Sumter, S.C., conducting the middle school band) and Amy Shaffer (Asheville Middle School, conducting the second middle school band).

The students rehearse all day Feb. 8 and half of the day Feb. 9 before presenting a gala concert at 4 p.m. Feb. 9. They also have an opportunity to hear performances by WCU’s Wind Ensemble and the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet. All performances are in the Bardo Arts Center and are open to the public. There is no admission charge.





Sounds of the Season

Sunday,
December 2

Sounds of the Season, the primary scholarship fundraiser for the WCU School of Music, will be offered at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, in the concert hall of the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center on the campus of Western Carolina University. The concert will feature performances by the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Choir, University Chorus, Early Music Ensemble, Musical Theater Singers and the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet. Tickets for the program are \$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors (individuals 60 and older) and WCU faculty and staff; and \$5 for students and children. All proceeds from the sale of tickets for this event will contribute to the WCU School of Music Scholarship Fund. For information or to purchase tickets, visit the Bardo Arts Center box office, call 828.227.2479 or go online to bardoartscenter.wcu.edu.



Fall Choral Tour, Oct. 22-25

The Concert Choir and Early Music Ensemble, both under the direction of Michael Lancaster, will travel to Raleigh, N.C., this October for the annual fall choral tour. They will sing at Chapel Hill Bible Church, Cedar Ridge High School and Southeast Raleigh High School among others.

The tour repertoire for the Concert Choir includes such pieces as “Alleluia” by the Lithuanian composer Algirdas Martinaitis, “Kyrie” (from *Officium defunctorum*) by the Renaissance Spanish composer Tomas Luis

de Victoria, “Warum” by Johannes Brahms, “Only in Sleep” by Latvian composer Eriks Esenvalds, “Wade in the Water,” an African-American spiritual, and “S i do Mhailmeo I”, a traditional Irish song. The Early Music Ensemble will be singing Renaissance madrigals, chansons and Lieder by such composers as Bennet, Monteverdi, de Lassus, and Wilbye. The graduate assistant for both choirs is Brandi Moon.

The post-tour concert will be Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the Coulter Music Building.

CHORAL CLINIC SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER

The School of Music will host the WCU High School Choral Clinic, Saturday, Nov. 17. The event will involve high school choral students from throughout Western North Carolina. These students, along with members of the WCU Concert Choir, will form a large choir and rehearse under the direction of Michael Lancaster. Throughout the day they will participate in clinics and attend performances by WCU vocal faculty and ensembles. The weekend will culminate in a performance at 5 p.m. in the Bardo Arts Center on the WCU campus.

CONCERT CHOIR AT CARNEGIE HALL!

The WCU Concert Choir and the Asheville Symphony Chorus, both under the direction of Michael Lancaster, have been invited to sing in Carnegie Hall. The invitation was made by MidAmerica Productions, a company that has been sponsoring concerts in Carnegie Hall for more than 30 years. The choirs will join forces with the Manhattan Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of Lauridsen’s *Lux aeterna*, all under the baton of Michael Lancaster. This outstanding performance will take place Monday, May 27, 2013 at 2 p.m. Join us in New York!



Catamount Chamber Singers and Electric Soul

The Catamount Singers and Electric Soul, an auditioned group of 25 vocal and instrumental students from Western Carolina University led by Bruce Frazier and Jon Henson, presented a program of popular music and jazz on tour to Southeastern states during spring semester. The hour-long program, titled "Rhythm and Rhymes," was a tribute to contemporary popular instrumental and vocal dance music. The 2012 spring tour included performances in the Atlanta area and in Orlando at the Waterside Amphitheater in downtown Disney.

Repertoire for the group typically includes a wide variety of music in jazz and popular music styles, ranging from intricate a cappella arrangements to performances

with the full instrumental ensemble. The group emphasizes musical excellence. Current material includes original pop and jazz arrangements with a cookin' horn and rhythm section. The selections for the 2012 production featured hit songs by such artists as Adele, Boyz II Men, Michael Bublé, Aretha Franklin and Michael Jackson.

The group meets spring semester only and will present a campus concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 2013, in the Bardo Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the public. Plans for this year's tour include performances at public schools across the state and culminates in a concert at Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo, N.C.

Go online to <http://catamountsingersandelectricsoul.com/> for more information about the ensemble.

CONCERT CHOIR SINGS AT CONFERENCE

The WCU Concert Choir has been invited to sing at the Fall Choral Conference of the N.C. Chapter of the American Choral Directors Convention, Sept. 21-22 at UNC-Greensboro. The invitation to perform was by recorded audition, and only three choirs were selected statewide. The performance is scheduled for 11:15 a.m., Sept. 21, in the recital hall of the UNCG School of Music.

Madrigal Dinners, Nov. 30 & Dec. 1

The 2012 Madrigal Dinner productions will be Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Grandroom of the University Center. Presented nearly every year since 1970, this program has been a colorful way to usher in the Christmas season. Featured are the Early Music Ensemble (19 singers this year) under the direction of Michael Lancaster; a trio of herald trumpets that introduces each event of the evening with a fanfare; and a trio of period instruments played by Will Peebles,

Bruce Frazier and WCU alumna Diana Fisher. *Dramatis personae* include a jester, pages, the Lord and Lady of the feast and others depending upon the chosen script. Seating begins at 6 p.m. with the show starting at 6:30. This year's menu features a choice of Cornish game hen, stuffed pork tenderloin, or vegetarian entrée as well as wassail and figgy pudding. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, Nov. 6. To reserve seats, call 828.227.7206 and ask for Jeff Hughes.



At 91, William Henigbaum Is Still Making Great Music!

The Western Carolina Civic Orchestra will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7, in the recital hall of the Coulter building. Conducting this orchestra for the 20th season will be maestro William “Bill” Henigbaum. At 91, Henigbaum represents a lasting legacy and is still serving WCU, Jackson County and the surrounding communities by continuing to conduct and play his violin.

A 1948 graduate of the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, Henigbaum moved to Sylva in 1985 with plans of retiring and being closer to daughter Cathy Arps after an extensive musical career that included 50 years with the Tri-City Symphony in Davenport,



Iowa. He was the concertmaster for 11 years. He also performed with Grant Park Symphony in Chicago, Chicago Civic Orchestra, Clinton Symphony Orchestra in Iowa, and Augustana Symphony Orchestra in Rock Island, Illinois. He co-founded the Tri-City Community Orchestra, directed the Friends of Chamber Music in Davenport, and taught at the American

Conservatory of Music, St. Ambrose College, Marycrest College, and Augustana College. Throughout his career, he also taught private violin and viola lessons, which he continued to do even in his late 80s.

His “retirement” to Western North Carolina included many years of playing with the Asheville Symphony and the Brevard Chamber Orchestra, as well as in the pit and on the stage for operas, musicals and choral concerts at WCU.

During World War II, Henigbaum served in the U.S. Infantry stationed in Italy near the end of hostilities, and his division was put on guard duty protecting the borders of Italy and France. He was in charge of a special platoon that was not too busy at this point in the war, giving him the opportunity to study violin in Florence while awaiting the boat to take them back home.

Henigbaum did not take a violin with him to Italy, but his platoon “liberated” one for him. One night while out on patrol in “no man’s land,” they were rooting through an old farmhouse and happened across a violin tucked away in a dusty closet. They presented the find, which was still in working condition with strings and all, to Henigbaum, who tuned it, plucked around a little, and played a few songs for them out in the dark fields. Then he handed back the fiddle and instructed them to return it to where they had found it. However, when they got back to the base, the violin was there. The soldiers had concealed the violin in a shelter wrap and carried it back with them. Henigbaum kept the old German violin.

Cathy Arps described her childhood home in Iowa as one filled with music. When she and

her sisters were small, her father and other orchestra members held chamber music rehearsals in their living room. “My sisters and I were supposed to be in bed, but we’d sit at the top of the steps and listen to all the beautiful music,” Arps said. “I didn’t have a fiddler on the front porch, but I had that in the living room.”

Arps inherited more than her talent and love of music from her father – the violin she uses when she teaches Suzuki violin lessons is the very one her father brought home from World War II. “It sounds amazingly well for all it’s been through,” says Henigbaum.

When Henigbaum came to Western North Carolina, his plans to settle into a quiet retirement in this mountain community were soon changed. The word had gotten out that he was coming, and local residents Sarah Eller and David Teague quickly approached him about joining the civic orchestra. Henigbaum, not being one to turn down a good gig, accepted the invitation, and began performing with the orchestra. Soon thereafter he became conductor of the orchestra and drew upon a career of wide experience to expand the capability and repertoire of the group.

Today, the Western Carolina Civic Orchestra boasts a regular membership of 45 to 50 musicians from five counties (Jackson, Haywood, Macon, Buncombe and Cherokee), 10 to 15 student musicians, and two to three soloists for each spring concert. The group performs a winter and a spring concert each year, and every few years does a performance of the Messiah.

Many performances stand out to Henigbaum, but he recalls one in particular in which the orchestra performed Liszt’s Piano Concerto with WCU’s piano professor at the time, Lillian Buss Pearson. “That was really outstanding,” he says.

When asked how long he will continue to conduct the orchestra, he says, “As long as they will let me, I will be there!”

The interview and the research for this article was provided by WCU alumnus Caleb Beissert and Lynn Hotaling, editor of the Sylva-Herald.



GAMELAN RECORDS CD

WCU’s Gamelan Gunung biru, composed of School of Music faculty, staff and former students, has released a CD of music for gamelan degung. Featured on the disc are Burhan Sukarma, the group’s mentor from California, and his wife, Rae Ann Stahl. Faculty members Will Peebles, Joy Shea and Terri Armfield are members of the ensemble. The CD includes traditional selections and several works by Sukarma and is available through the university bookstore for \$10. Proceeds from the sale support the School of Music.

'DRACULA' RAISES \$8,000 IN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

On January 24, 2012, the creative team that produced "A Christmas Carol," "On the Home Front: Nov. '44" and "War of the Worlds" presented its fourth collaborative staged radio broadcast with "Dracula." The performance was presented in the Bardo Arts Center and was recorded for subsequent radio broadcast. An audience of more than 800 attended the live concert that was broadcast simultaneously on the Internet. Approximately \$8,000 was raised for WCU student scholarships from ticket sales.

The performance involved a cast of 90 actors, singers, instrumentalists, dancers and technical contributors. Don Connelly, director of the communication program, compiled the script and Steve Carlisle, associate dean of the Honor's College, directed the production. Bruce Frazier arranged and composed much of the music for this production and also served as music director and conductor of



the 45-member orchestra. The performance involved faculty and students from the College of Fine and Performing Arts, College of Arts and Sciences and the Honors College, along with strings players from the Asheville Symphony.

The show was presented in two parts. The opening section featured several orchestral masterworks including Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain," Saint Saëns' "Danse Macabre," Bach's "Tocatta in D minor" and Lloyd Weber's "Music of the Night" sung by music faculty and baritone soloist Dan Cherry. The second portion of the program was the dramatic reading of Connelly's original radio play script based on Bram Stoker's 1897 novel. Frazier composed and orchestrated 26

musical cues that underscored the drama of the play. Costumes were by Susan Brown-Strauss and set by Luther Jones.

The rehearsals and performance were videotaped by a crew from UNC-TV and were featured in an episode of "Carolina Now." "Dracula" is planned for re-broadcast on Clear Channel Broadcasting radio stations in Asheville and Waynesville in October 2012.

Plans are under way for the next installment in the series of radio plays. Rights to Edgar Rice Burroughs' "Tarzan of the Apes" have been secured and preproduction is under way. The production will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, in the Bardo Arts Center.

Artist-in-Residence Orchestra to Perform Sept. 20

The Western Carolina University Artist-in-Residence Orchestra will perform a concert of symphonic works and ballet as a part of the DADA Festival activities on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. The program will be presented in the Bardo Arts Center and is free



and open to the public. The orchestra will be conducted by Bruce Frazier, the Carol Grotnes Belk Endowed Professor of Commercial and Electronic Music. Karyn Tomczak is the choreographer for the production with costumes by Susan Brown-Strauss, both faculty in the School of Stage and Screen.

Selections featured in the program include "Scaramouche" by Darius Milhaud with Ian Jeffress, saxophone soloist; two "Gymnopédie" by Eric Satie, orchestrated by Claude Debussy; the ballet "Parade," music by Eric Satie; and "Pacific 231," a symphonic poem by Arthur Honegger.

Sponsored by the College of Fine and Performing Arts, the DADA festival is a celebration of the art, and "anti-art," of the early 20th century. The aftermath of the First World War fostered a period of disillusionment with the conventions of society and anarchy spread to the arts. The short-lived movement, led by author Tristan Tzara, was characterized by a rejection of the beauty of the romantic age and ushered in the age of futurism,

cubism and surrealism. The word Dada translates "hobby horse" from the French but in this context it means nothing – a word picked randomly from the dictionary. The spirit of Dada is reflected in acts of spontaneity, absurdity, natural impulse and futility. It is an attitude that is still influencing contemporary art today.

The Artist-in-Residence Orchestra features selected students from the School of Music (woodwinds, brass and percussion), combined with professional string players from the Asheville Symphony. The concert is supported by the Office of the Provost, Dean Robert Kehrberg and the College of Fine and Performing Arts, the faculty members of the School of Music, and the Carol Grotnes Belk Endowment.

In addition to the orchestral program, a Dada chamber music concert is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature numerous School of Music faculty performing works by Satie, Poulenc, Cage, Varèse, Koechlin, Schulhoff, Frazier and others.

FACULTY NEWS



Terri Armfield's article "Making Reeds Behave" was published in the September issue of *The Instrumentalist*. She will also be performing this year in Nashville with the Nashville Double Reed Ensemble.



The **Balaton Chamber Brass**, a duo comprised of **Amy Cherry**, trumpet, and **Dan Cherry**, trombone, performed as guest artists at the 2012 International Women's Brass Conference in Kalamazoo, Mich., on June 10.

They will perform a full recital on March 5, 2013, as part of the WCU School of Music's "Catamount Concert Series." Two children's concerts also are planned this year – one at the Cullowhee Valley School and the other at Kneeder Child Development Center on the WCU campus.

In addition to recital performances and educational outreach programs, Balaton has been active in expanding the repertoire for the trumpet/trombone duo. Members have recently finished the recording stage of their debut CD of commissioned works by composers Emma Lou Diemer, Bruce Frazier, Michael Kallstrom, Wayne Lu, Elizabeth Raum and Michael Sitton. The CD is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

Amy Cherry was awarded the College of Fine and Performing Arts Teaching Award in April. In June she performed at the International Women's Brass Conference in Kalamazoo, Mich., three times: once as a member of the Monarch Brass Ensemble (an all-female brass choir made up of college teachers, orchestral players and military performers from around the world); once as a member of the Athena Brass Band (an all female brass band); and once as an invited guest artist with the Balaton Chamber Brass.



Mario Gaetano performed as marimba soloist at the WNC Composers Concert, June 27 at St. Mathias Church in Asheville. He will be featured with the Blue Ridge Sacred Chorale in Brevard

on Dec. 7 in a performance of a work by Conrad Susa. Many of Gaetano's percussion compositions were featured internationally at various schools this past semester, including "Overture for Percussion" at the National Conservatory in Mexico City, March 20; "Two Designs" at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Aug. 10; "Junk Funk" at the Sant' Agnesse n Agone Cathedral, Rome, in July; and a performance of "Three Episodes" at the University of Warsaw, Poland in September. His new piece, "Echo Canyon," was performed at the Virginia Band Directors Association District 12 Conference in April. Gaetano begins his 34th season as principal percussionist with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra.



Ian Jeffress was invited, as a member of the Assembly Saxophone Quartet, to perform at the World Saxophone Congress held in St. Andrews, Scotland, in July 2012. The quartet performed the world

premiere of Simon Fink's "Mic Check," a work written for the ensemble. During the 2012-13 season the group will be premiering works by David Maslanka and Girard Kratz. Earlier in the summer, the Assembly Quartet released its debut album, "Putting It All Together," featuring standards of the saxophone quartet repertoire. Other members of the Assembly Quartet include Lauren Meccia, Matt Younglove and Adam Estes.



Michael Lancaster served as the conductor of the orchestra, chamber orchestra and chorus at the Raspberry Ridge Music Camp, June 11-17 in Durham, N.C. He

conducted Handel's *Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 5*, and Fauré's *Elegie*, among others. He continues to serve as director of the Asheville Symphony Chorus and will conduct the ASC in a performance of Duruflé's *Requiem* and Lauridsen's *Lux aeterna*, 7 p.m. Nov. 3 at Central Methodist Church in Asheville. The ASC will also sing selections from Handel's *Messiah* and "O nata lux" by Lauridsen with the Asheville Symphony at 3 p.m. Dec. 16 at the orchestra's annual holiday concert in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, Asheville.

The Asheville Symphony and Asheville Symphony Chorus will also collaborate on April 20, 2013, for Mozart's *Requiem* and Vaughan Williams' *Flos campi*; and then again on May 11 for Fauré's *Pavane*. The ASC season will culminate with a performance of Lauridsen's *Lux aeterna* in Carnegie Hall, NYC, on May 27, 2013, under the direction of Lancaster.

Dr. Lancaster will adjudicate and conduct at the N.C. West III Fall Choral Workshop on Oct. 19. He will also conduct the Hendersonville County High School Honor Chorus on Nov. 9-10.



Christina Reitz presented research entitled "Every Time I Feel the Spirit: African-American Spirituals in the Late 19th Century" at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association

Conference, March 22-24, in Asheville. Her article "Fannie Bloomfield-Zeisler: Concert Pianist Battling Gender Lines in the Early 20th Century" was published in the *International Journal of Arts and Commerce*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2012. Her article "Defining the Indefinable: The Leschtiziky Method in Vienna and Chicago" has been accepted for publication in the *American Music Teacher* and is expected to be published in the October/November 2012 issue. Dr. Reitz served as the local arrangements chair for the 19th century studies association's international conference in Asheville, where she also moderated three research sessions. She serves on the board

of directors and publicity committee for this organization. She was recently appointed to the National Editorial Board for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.



Eldred Spell published an article titled "Scales: An Incomplete Look at What Every Flutist Should Know" in the spring 2012 edition of the *Flutist Quarterly*. The article mainly explains the "Cooper

Scale" and the importance of the work and research of the late Albert Cooper.



Shannon Thompson presented a lecture titled "The Signature Sound of Daniel Bonade and his Students" at ClarinetFest 2012, the annual conference by the International Clarinet Association,

in Lincoln, Neb., this past August. "From Heritage to Horizon" was the theme of this year's conference, and its subject was the two most influential American orchestral clarinetists, Daniel Bonade and his student Robert Marcellus. Dr. Thompson's doctoral treatise and other research focuses on this American school of clarinet playing, and her presentation on modifications to clarinet sound by these clarinetists, their pedagogy and their equipment was enthusiastically received by the conference attendees. Her complete presentation is available in the Clarinet Cache online blog.

Thompson will be performing a program of British music with pianist Brad Martin and soprano Susan Belcher on Tuesday, Oct. 2.



P. Bradley Ulrich and **Bruce Frazier** will be traveling to St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia, Oct. 7-16. Ulrich will be performing the international premiere of Frazier's new four-movement trumpet

solo, *Blue Ridge Suite*, with brass quintet accompaniment in both cities.

Dr. Ulrich is the artistic director of the International Trumpet Festival of Russia, and this year, in addition to bringing Dr. Frazier, he will be taking the HoodleBug Brass Quintet from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Dennis Edelbrock, professor of trumpet at George Mason University, to perform on the "American Brass Seasons" festival in St. Petersburg. This will be Ulrich's sixth trip to Russia for the festival. The American brass players will present four concerts in St. Petersburg and also give clinics at the renowned St. Petersburg Conservatory. Afterward, the American group of musicians will travel to Moscow to perform in the "Brass Days" festival at the Moscow Conservatory and present a clinic to the conservatory students.



Pavel Wlosok spent July and August performing a total of 15 jazz concerts throughout Prague. He also released a new CD with world renowned drummer

John Riley and bassist Mike McGuirk. The European release took place July 29 in Jazz Dock, Prague. The U.S. release is scheduled for Dec. 14 in the Czech Center of New York in Manhattan, NYC, with the original band members. Wlosok wrote all the compositions for this CD; it was produced by Wlosok and Petr Marek.



NEW FACULTY PROFILE

Damon Sink joins the music faculty this year as an assistant professor in the commercial and electronic music program, where he is teaching courses in MIDI, synthesis, and recording arts and directing the Music Technology Ensemble. Dr. Sink is a graduate of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he studied composition with Joel Hoffman and Samuel Adler and music theory with Severine Neff, Frank Samarotto and Randall Wheaton.

Dr. Sink teaches courses in the fundamentals of music technology, including MIDI and sequencing, the computer protocol that lets electronic instruments "talk" to each other and facilitates human performance; synthesis, which is creating, layering and manipulating sound; as well as studio techniques that integrate virtual instruments with recorded sound.

In addition to his creative work as a composer, Dr. Sink is active in other areas of media production, advertising, video, film, and classical and jazz recording. Before coming to WCU, he served as a full-time member on the faculties of Xavier University and the University of Dayton and founded dalSegno Media, an audio/visual production company. Other academic pursuits include topics in the history of music theory as well as the development of rich media modes of analytical presentation. He lives in Cullowhee in a soon-to-be-finished house in University Heights with his wife, Barb, and children, Philip and Laura.

SMBQ Tours Jamaica (Continued from cover)

This was the group's first trip to Jamaica, although they would like to return to help set up brass ensembles in the public schools there. The quintet is hoping to tour the Netherlands, Germany and the Czech Republic in the spring of 2013.



Hannah Austin, a senior music education major and clarinetist from the studio of Shannon Thompson, was one of the winners in the 2012 WCU Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition. She performed Rossini's "Introduction, Theme, and Variations" in April. Hannah was also chosen by audition

to participate in the young artist orchestral program of the MasterWorks Festival this summer in Winona Lake, Indiana. This highly selective, four-week festival attracts 250 young musicians from around the world, and only five clarinetists are chosen to participate in the orchestral program. MasterWorks boasts a faculty of approximately 90, including guest conductors such as Miriam Burns and Daniel Meyer. Austin performed as principal clarinetist on a number of symphonic orchestra pieces, and her woodwind quintet was selected to perform at the Student Honors Recital.



Rebecca Lautier, BM '12, presented her research paper "Philosophy of Music: A Comparison of Musical Ideas in the Ancient and Baroque Periods" at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Ogden, Utah, last spring. She also presented "World Influences in the Music

of the Beatles" at the 2012 Undergraduate Expo on the WCU campus. Christina Reitz was the faculty adviser for this project.

Emily Talley, currently a WCU graduate student from the studio of Shannon Thompson, was one of the winners in the 2012 WCU Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition. She performed "Alla Polacca" from Concerto No. 2 by Carl Maria von Weber.

Ten members of the **WCU Trumpet Studio** will be traveling to Kalvarita, Greece, from Jan. 1-11, 2013, to perform and learn at the Exploring the Trumpet in Greece Festival. During this festival, the students will be attending daily warm-up sessions, clinics and ensemble rehearsals and will be performing with students and professionals from the USA and Europe. P. Bradley Ulrich and Larry Black, trumpet professors at WCU, will be clinicians and performers at the festival along with Vince DiMartino (legendary American trumpet performer and teacher), David Hickman (arguably the world's leading trumpet teacher and pedagogue), Gerassimos Ioannidis, the trumpet professor at the Orpheus Conservatory in Athens, Greece, and Greek teacher and performer George Babarakos. The WCU students will be attending the festival with other American and European trumpet students. It is a goal of Dr. Ulrich's

for the WCU Trumpet Studio to experience an international learning/performing opportunity at least once every four years.

STUDENT TEACHERS FOR FALL 2012

Nathan Brown, North Henderson High School

Stacy Menichelli, Tuscola High School

Hannah Presson, Waynesville Middle School

Jason Scott, Chase High School

Whitney Stewart, Blackburn Elementary

Tabitha Stinson, Cherokee Elementary

Molly Underwood, Hickory High School

Ryan Wall, Smoky Mountain High School

GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE *(Continued from cover)*

In his first year, Dr. Belcher established an excellent reputation as an administrator and now he has established himself on campus and in the community as a very fine musician. We look forward to working with him, on stage and off.

This fall, the Concert Choir will be performing for the North Carolina Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association in Greensboro. In the spring, they will be joining the Asheville Symphony and Chorus for a performance of Mozart's "Requiem." The Wind Ensemble will be on tour in the spring and will perform a concert at the Diana Wortham Theatre in Asheville.

The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet has completed its fifth international tour, performing for more than 7,000 public school students in Jamaica, and they are busy looking into prospects for another European tour in the spring.

Enrollment in the School of Music is now at 198 majors, with 45 new freshmen. Numbers are down slightly this year due to a small incoming graduate class and to increases in the number of semesters of lessons for music education and commercial and electronic music. However, we continue to attract top-quality students, despite our meager scholarship resources.

Once again, I hope that you will consider joining Friends of the Arts through the College of Fine and Performing Arts with a generous donation to music scholarships. Even a small amount can make a difference if enough people respond!

Best wishes to all of you from your friends, teachers, colleagues, mentors and successors in the School of Music. It is always good to hear from you and to see you any time you're back in Cullowhee.

Will Peebles, Director

ALUMNI NEWS

Nicholas Gattis, BSED '10, presented his paper titled "Shape Notes: An American Sacred Music Tradition" at the International Conference of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association from March 22-24 in Asheville, N.C.



Sarah Hutchings (formerly Sarah Reneer, BM '07) is currently working toward a DMA in composition at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Sarah graduated with an MM in music theory/

composition from Florida State University in 2010 and received her BM degree in Commercial and Electronic Music from WCU. She is currently president of the Graduate Student Governance Association at the University of Cincinnati. In this capacity she serves as graduate student body president to all graduate students throughout the entire University of Cincinnati system. The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music will be premiering the first act of her opera, "Carmilla," in April. Her tenor song cycle "On Faith and Life" was premiered at CCM in March 2012. Also in 2012, she was the Boston Metro Opera International Composer Competition winner. In addition to her accomplishments as a composer, Sarah serves as the choir director/music minister at Alexandria United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Ky.

The performing career of **Jeanne Jolly**, BA '01, recently has taken a return home. After receiving her master's degree from New England Conservatory of Music, she toured



with Grammy winner Chris Botti, recorded with songwriters Lowen and Navarro and sang at Carnegie Hall and the Monterey Jazz Festival. Now, Jeanne is home in North Carolina. In

2010 she released a CD titled "Falling in Carolina," an album with a Carolina country theme, where she is featured on vocals, ukulele, piano and guitar. In response to "Falling in Carolina," *NC Metro Magazine* awarded her "Best Local Musician" in 2010 and 2011. Also in 2011, she was a featured artist at the International Folk Alliance in Memphis, Tenn. This past June, Jeanne was featured as part of the Mountain Home Music concert series in Boone. In October 2012 she released another album, "Angels." *Photo by Celeste Young*

James Rudisill, BM '06, attended the Royal Academy of Music in London from 2007-09, earning an MA degree in orchestral, solo and chamber performance. He regularly performed with professional ensembles such as the London Chamber Orchestra while living in London from 2007-11. He is now back in Raleigh and freelancing with

the North Carolina Symphony, Asheville Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony and others. James has been invited to attend the solo horn audition for Quebec Symphony Orchestra in September.

ALUMNI INVITED TO NCMEA CONFERENCE RECEPTION

The NCMEA In-Service Conference will take place Sunday-Tuesday, Nov. 11-13, in Winston-Salem, N.C., at the Benton Convention Center. We will have our customary booth in the exhibit hall, so please drop by and say "hello." Our alumni reception/dinner buffet will be from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Foothills Brewing Co., downtown Winston-Salem, 638 W. Fourth St. (336.777.3348). A cash bar will be available. See you then!

Employment Update of Recent Graduates

Jennifer Anderson is now teaching choral music at North Buncombe Middle School.

Joshua Belvin is currently band director at Lincolnton High School.

Justin Carter is currently band director at Southeastern Stokes Middle School.

Lindsey Costner teaches chorus and general music at Ledford Middle School.

Will Freeman teaches band at Cranberry Middle School and serves as assistant director at Avery County High School.

Brittany Howes teaches chorus and general music at Table Rock Middle School, Burke County.

Taylor Jandes is currently band director at East Henderson High School.

Andrew Jenkins is music teacher at the Orlando Science Schools, grades six through eight.

Dustin King is the band director at Batesburg-Leesville High School in Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.

Kevin Kimbrough is the new band director at Bethel Middle in Haywood County.

Kelly Litfin is an assistant band director in Jackson County.

Kyle Maples is now band and chorus director at East Rutherford High School.

Angie Pegram teaches choral music at West Lincoln High School.

Carmen Ramsey is the band director at North Guilford Middle School.

Rachel (Rimmer) Murray teaches chorus and general music at Woodington Middle School in Kinston.

Victor Saenz is currently band director at Dixon High School, Holly Ridge.

Ashley Setzer is now teaching choral music at Spring Hill Middle School, Laurinburg.

Frances Stover teaches band at Johnson-Williams Middle School and serves as an assistant band director at the high school in Clarke County, Va.

Ryan Summers is currently band director at Madison High School, Marshall.

Valerie Templeton teaches K-5 music at Mountain Crest Elementary in Burke County.

Chris Wilson teaches band at East McDowell Junior High and is an assistant at the high school.



Have news to share?

Marriages, children, advanced degrees,
new jobs – *we want to know!*

Please send updates, including
new contact information, to
828.227.3263 or gaetano@wcu.edu.

WCU is a University of North Carolina campus and an Equal Opportunity Institution. 200 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of 364.50 or \$1.82 each. Office of Creative Services | Nov. 2012 | 12-812

**Western
Carolina**
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FINE &
PERFORMING ARTS

1 University Way
Cullowhee, NC 28723