

## GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE

*Dear Alumni and Friends,*

*As we begin a new academic year in the School of Music, we have many reasons to be excited about our future, despite the continued gloomy economic news. We have two new faces in very important roles in the School of Music: David Starnes as director of athletic bands, and Dr. Michael Lancaster as director of choral activities. Dr. Lancaster will also be directing the Asheville Symphony Chorus. Both of these men have tremendous experience in their fields and interesting and challenging ideas for the future of their ensembles and of the School of Music. You can read more about them elsewhere in this newsletter, but do be sure to drop by our booth to meet them at the NC Music Educators Association conference in November.*

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## 'A Christmas Carol' Receives Prestigious Award

The WCU production of "Campbell's Playhouse: 'A Christmas Carol' 1938" received a prestigious Gabriel Award from the Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals. The award was given for achievement in the radio broadcasting entertainment category for 2011.

The performance was presented to a sold-out audience on Dec. 9, 2010, in WCU's Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. A minute-by-minute re-creation of a 1938 Campbell's Playhouse radio adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" that starred the legendary Orson Welles, the WCU show used Welles' personal script. The program was broadcast locally Christmas Eve on Clear Channel stations.

There were 110 participants in all aspects of the production, including School of Music faculty and students performing in the orchestra and vocal ensemble. Bruce Frazier, WCU's Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Electronic and Commercial Music, was the program's music director. Featured soloists were Mary Kay Bauer and Dan Cherry, faculty members in the School of Music. The production was directed by Steve Carlisle, associate dean of WCU's Honors College, and produced by Don Connelly, head of the WCU communication department. The guest star of the show was actor Arthur Anderson, who recreated his role of the Ghost Christmas Past from the original 1938 broadcast.

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# Marching Band Presents “Club Swagger!”

WCU's 375-member marching band is proud to present its 2011 production, “Club Swagger,” at all home football games and several guest exhibition appearances throughout the fall. “Club Swagger” is our depiction of a modern-day dance club that combines pulsing bass beats with popular melodies that will be sure to have you dancing in the aisles! We present music of Madonna (“Express Yourself”), Lady Gaga (“Born This Way” and “The Edge of Glory”), Bruno Mars (“Just the Way You Are”), Michael Jackson (“Jam!”), Flo Rida (“Club Can’t Handle Me”) and Usher (“Oh My Gosh” and “More”), just to name a few. Listen for classic rock melodies as well as trendy club sounds, and you will fully appreciate how “Whee” swagger.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011, the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band will host the 11th annual “Tournament of Champions” high school marching band competition in E.J. Whitmire Stadium.

Twenty-five high school bands will perform throughout the day to compete for the honor of being named the tournament’s “Grand Champion.” The Pride of the Mountains Marching Band will perform following the preliminary competition and again at the conclusion of the championship finals competition. We will host an all-star evaluation panel comprised of musical icons, designers and teachers from throughout the United States who will provide expert analysis and recommendations to our participants. All profits from the tournament will go toward the marching band scholarship fund.

Throughout the fall, the Pride of the Mountains will showcase our students’ talents across the Southeast at several exhibition performances. We see this as a great way of recruiting for the School of Music at WCU while providing exposure for the university to thousands of people from all facets of life, including current students,

their families, alumni and prospective students. We are proud of our university and are honored to serve as musical ambassadors for our department and faculty wherever we perform.

Thanks to the notoriety and fan-friendly shows made famous by the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band, we are honored to accept an invitation from the Carolina Panthers football organization to perform at the team’s 2011 home opener versus the Green Bay Packers. WCU’s marching band will be the first marching band to perform at a Panthers halftime in nearly 10 years. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to our performance for the sellout crowd expected Sept. 18 in Charlotte.

### 2011 Scheduled Exhibition Performances

**Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011**

NFL football:

Carolina Panthers vs. Green Bay Packers  
Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, N.C.

**Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011**

Enka High School Band Competition  
Enka High School Stadium, Canton, N.C.

**Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011**

Western Carolina University  
“Tournament of Champions”  
Marching Band Competition  
E.J. Whitmire Stadium, Cullowhee, N.C.

**Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011**

Bands of America Regional Championship  
Georgia Dome, Atlanta

“The Pride of the Mountains” professional staff includes: David Starnes, director; Matt Henley and Jon Henson, assistant directors; Bill Locklear, Scott Beck, Adam Sage and Rhea Starnes, color guard instructors and consultants.





## WCU WIND ENSEMBLE TO PRESENT FALL CONCERTS

The WCU Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. John West, will present two fall concerts in the John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. The first concert will be Tuesday, Oct. 11, and will feature David Gillingham's exciting Symphony No. 2 "Genesis." The inspiration for this five-movement work is drawn from the creation story as told in the biblical book of Genesis. Also on the program is "Toccata" by Frescobaldi (conducted by graduate assistant conductor Jody McCarn), "Cathedrals" by Kathryn

Salfelder, "October" by Eric Whitacre and a delightfully humorous piccolo duet called the "Merry Birds" featuring Molly Underwood and Ryan Wall.

The second concert will be Tuesday, Dec. 6, and will include Norman Dello Joio's powerful work "Variants on a Mediaeval Tune." An exciting feature of this concert will be a performance of Mozart's masterwork Serenade No. 10 (K. 361), the "Gran Partita" by an ensemble composed of student musicians from the Wind Ensemble

and faculty members from the School of Music. This monumental work calls for 13 players comprising two oboes, two clarinets, two basset horns (an instrument somewhat resembling an alto clarinet), four horns, two bassoons and a contrabass.

Both concerts start at 7:30 p.m. and there is no admission charge. This outstanding ensemble is currently comprised of 54 student musicians.



## JAZZ ENSEMBLE IN FULL SWING

The WCU Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Pavel Wlosok, will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the Coulter Building recital hall. The group will have a busy spring semester as members embark on their North Carolina concert tour March 14-16, 2012, and host the Annual WCU Jazz Fest on Saturday, April 14. 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 event!

## WCU HOSTS THE ALL-DISTRICT BAND

On Friday, Feb. 10, and Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, more than 350 middle and high school musicians will gather on WCU's campus for the annual All-District Band festival. This event features four clinic bands (two middle school and two high school) conducted by guest clinicians. The students rehearse all day Friday and half of the day Saturday before presenting a gala concert at 4 p.m. Saturday. 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 4th

Sounds of the Season, the primary scholarship fundraiser for the WCU School of Music, will be offered at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, 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](http://bardoartscenter.wcu.edu).



## Fall Choral Tour Takes Members across the State

The Concert Choir and Early Music Ensemble, both under the direction of Michael Lancaster, will travel to Chapel Hill, N.C., this October for their annual fall concert tour. They will sing at Chapel Hill Bible Church, Carrboro High School, Cresset Christian Academy and Chapel Hill High School, among others, from Saturday, Oct. 22, to Monday, Oct. 25.

The tour repertoire for the Concert Choir includes such pieces as “Vox populi” by the Lithuanian composer Giedrius Sivilainis, “Justorum animae” by the Renaissance English composer William

Byrd, “Waldesnacht” by Johannes Brahms, “The Spheres” by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo and “Ubi caritas” by Maurice Duruflé, as well as folk songs and spirituals.

The Early Music Ensemble will be singing Renaissance madrigals, chansons and lieder by Jacques Arcadelt, Josquin des Prez, Thomas Weelkes, John Farmer, Thomas Morley and Hans Leo Hassler. The graduate assistant for both choirs is Ashley Setzer, a graduate student in vocal music education.

The post-tour concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in the recital hall of the Coulter Building.

## CONCERT CHOIR SINGS WITH ASHEVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NOVEMBER 19

The Concert Choir has been invited to join the Asheville Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in a performance of the Resurrection Symphony by Gustav Mahler. The performance will take place at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, located in the Civic Center at 87 Haywood St. in Asheville. *This concert will also be repeated in the Bardo Arts Center at 3 pm on Sunday, Nov 20.*

The symphony, composed in the late 19th century, is Mahler's second. The choral parts, which occur in the last movement as in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, are among the most profound ever written. Mahler was one of the greatest symphonists of all time, and he was said to have considered this particular work his favorite.



## Catamount Chamber Singers and “Electric Soul” Visit Eastern part of State

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 eastern North Carolina during the spring semester. The hour-long program, titled “Hit the Dance Floor,” was a tribute to contemporary popular instrumental and vocal dance music. The tour culminated with two

performances at Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo, N.C., on April 16.

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

2011 production featured hit songs by such artists as Rihanna; Tower of Power; Madonna; Earth, Wind & Fire; and Michael Jackson.

The group meets spring semester only and will present a concert on campus at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at the Bardo Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the public. Go online to [www.wcu.edu/6533.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/6533.asp) for more information about the ensemble.

## Usher in Holidays with Madrigal Dinners

The 2011 Madrigal Dinner productions will be Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, 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 (20 singers this year) under the direction of Michael Lancaster, the newly appointed director of choral activities at WCU; 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. 1. To reserve seats, call 828.227.7206 and ask for Dianne Harris.



# FACULTY NEWS



Carol Grotnes Belk Professor **Bruce Frazier** will be traveling to Richmond, Va., in October to present a session at the joint conference of the annual meeting of the College Music Society and the Association for Technology in Music Instruction.

On Friday morning, Oct. 21, Dr. Frazier will present a hands-on session titled “Catching the Hits: The Basics of Film Scoring Using Apple’s Logic Pro Music Production Software.” Session participants will explore selected tools for synchronizing music and audio with motion picture. As an aid for the film composer, Apple’s Logic Pro software will be used to find musical “hits,” determine appropriate tempo and meter maps for scoring and to tailor recorded MIDI and audio tracks to the action of the scene. The session will include importing and working with video, using markers, scene detection, exploring tempo options, beat mapping and Flextime elastic audio features.

**Mario Gaetano** will perform a “distinguished alumni” recital at the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, N.Y., on Tuesday, Oct. 18. Gaetano graduated from the school in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in music and a performer’s certificate. The school will host a weekly series of concerts featuring renowned guest conductors, composers and performers during the 2011-12 academic year in honor of the school’s 125th anniversary. The Crane School is the birthplace of music education in the U.S., having the first accredited program, and is recognized as one of the world’s largest and most important music teacher preparation programs. Many Crane alumni have been invited to perform throughout the year, including opera stars Renee Fleming and Stephanie Blythe; “Phantom of the Opera” Broadway star Lisa Vroman; classical pianist Paul Wyse; jazz artist Tom Warrington; and numerous others.

Gaetano published four new compositions this past summer. Three of the works (“Memories Santa Fe,” “Echo Canyon” and “Shanghai”) were written for the developing percussion ensemble and will be published by C. Alan Publications as part of a new series called “Ignite.” The new series is designed to stimulate, inspire and educate the school-aged percussionist.



“Recession Music” for alto saxophone and percussion was recently published by Reed Music LTD of Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia. The work was premiered by Ian Jeffress in March 2010 at the North American Saxophone Alliance conference at the University of Georgia, Athens.

Gaetano received an ASCAP Plus Award this past summer. In April 2012, Gaetano will perform the solo percussion part to Stravinsky’s “L’histoire du Soldat” with the Asheville Symphony orchestra.

Saxophonist **Ian Jeffress** has recently been named the alto saxophonist with the award-



winning Assembly Saxophone Quartet. The group maintains an active performance schedule throughout the United States and in July

completed recording for its first CD release. The ensemble’s fall tour will take them through the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee.

**Michael Lancaster** served as the conductor of the orchestra, chamber orchestra and chorus at the Raspberry Ridge Music Camp, June 13-19 in Durham. Works included Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and Holst’s St. Paul Suite, among others. The campers were middle and high school students while the staff included university music majors and faculty from several states. All played in the orchestra and sang in the chorus.

He also was recently appointed director of the Asheville Symphony Chorus. He will serve as “guest conductor” this season as the founder and retiring director, Dewitt Tipton, will return in the spring of 2012 to conduct the final concert to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the chorus. Dr. Lancaster will take over as director in fall 2012.

This fall he is preparing the ASC for a performance of Mahler’s Resurrection Symphony at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, and the Holiday Pops Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Both performances are with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, located in the Civic Center in Asheville. He will be conducting the ASC in a performance of “O Magnum Mysterium” by Morten Lauridsen during the Holiday Pops Concert.

**William Martin** was the featured tenor soloist in a Christmas concert with the Mississippi Community Symphonic Band in Jackson, Miss.,



in December 2010. In February he was a guest soloist in "The Good Shepherd," conducted by the composer Dr. Robert Hobby at Aldersgate United Methodist

Church in Augusta, Ga. Recent solo appearances include those with the WCU Artist-in-Residence Orchestra in April of this year, where he served as tenor soloist in Vaughan Williams' "On Wenlock Edge." In June, he was featured guest artist with the Asheville Lyric Opera.

**Will Peebles** performed two concerts this summer with the "Six-foot Three" (+ One) in



Highlands and Webster (Eldred Spell, flute; Terri Armfield, oboe; Will Peebles, bassoon; Andrew Adams, piano). He also performed a concert

in Marquette, Mich., with the "Page Five Woodwind Quintet" in July.

**Christina Reitz** presented research titled "Music as a Political Weapon" at the



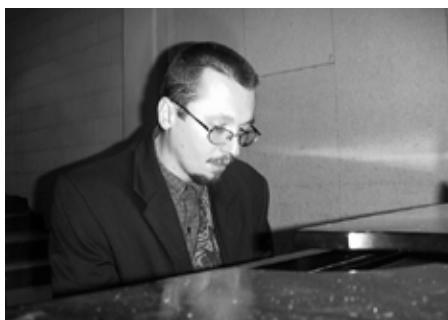
Nineteenth Century Studies Association, March 3-6 in Albuquerque, N.M. Her research paper "The Dies Irae in Nineteenth Century

**P. Bradley Ulrich** will be teaching and performing in St. Petersburg, Russia, Oct. 4-10, 2011. Ulrich was recently appointed artistic director for the International Trumpet Festival of Russia and will be bringing three American trumpet players with him. This will be Ulrich's fifth visit to Russia, and he will be performing solos from a balcony of the Peter and Paul Fortress, trumpet and piano works at the Italian Palace/Russian National Library, and solos with band at the Cappella Hall in St. Petersburg. In addition to performing, Ulrich and the other American trumpet players, from Texas, Missouri and Pennsylvania, will be giving a master class at the world-renowned St. Petersburg Conservatory (Rimsky-Korsakov). Ulrich will be performing compositions by WCU composers Robert Kehrberg and Bruce Frazier.



Symphonic Repertoire: Horror on the Concert Stage" was presented at the National Popular Culture and American Culture Association's annual conference in San Antonio in April 2011. Her article titled "The Sacred Concert Hall: A Survey of Meira Warshauer's Orchestral Works" will be published this fall in the Journal of the International Alliance for Women in Music. Reitz has been re-elected to Board of Directors of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association and will be the local arrangements chair for the 2012 conference in Asheville.

**Pavel Wlozok** was a featured clinician and performer at the annual Summer Jazz Camp



in Bratislava, Slovakia (July 3-8), the Summer Jazz Camp in Prague, Czech Republic (July 16-24), and at the Jazz Festival in Krakow, Poland (July 26). He performed approximately 15 solo concerts at these various festivals.

On Oct. 7, 2011, Wlosok will team up with his trio members (Eliot Wadopian, bass, and Byron Hedgepeth, drums) to perform live on WCQS public radio.

**Steve Wohlrab** performed more than 60 solo guitar engagements during the summer months at a number of resorts, concert venues and tourist destinations in Western North Carolina, including Biltmore's new Antler Hill Village.



# NEW FACULTY

**MICHAEL LANCASTER** is director of choral activities in the School of Music at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee,



N.C., where he conducts three choirs and teaches conducting and voice. He has also been appointed guest conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus. In this latter capacity he prepares the ASC for performances with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra as well as independent concerts. He also has served on the music faculty of the School of Church Music and Worship at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where his choirs sang at Southern Division Conventions of the American Choral Directors Association as well as the Annual Conference of the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

While on the faculty of Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Mo., his choirs performed concerts in England, New York City with two performances in Carnegie Hall, and Italy, which featured performances in Venice, Florence and Rome, including a performance in the Sistine Chapel.

While on the faculty of Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, Mo., he conducted two choirs and taught choral techniques and voice. He also taught high school choral music for six years in Southern California.

Lancaster holds the BME from Chapman College (Orange, Calif.), the MM from California State University Fullerton and the DMA from the University of Southern California. His primary musical influences have been Robert Shaw (Robert Shaw Festival Singers), Helmuth Rilling (Oregon Bach Festival), Rodney Eichenberger (University of Southern California) and William Hall (Chapman College and William Hall Chorale).

**RICHARD SKVOREC** joins the music faculty this year as a visiting assistant professor in the Commercial and Electronic Music



Program, where he is teaching courses in recording arts and music technology. Skvorec is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music production and engineering. He also earned a master's degree in computer music from Radford University, where he was awarded a graduate teaching fellowship. Prior to coming to WCU he was a recording engineer in New York and most recently was the music technology coordinator at Pepperdine University in California, where he also was teaching courses in music technology. In addition, he is a guitarist who draws from his backgrounds in both jazz and classical music. His professional affiliations include the Audio Engineering Society and the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States.



**DAVID STARNES** joined the School of Music at Western Carolina University in the fall of 2011, when he was named assistant professor in the School of Music and appointed the director of athletic bands. Prior to this appointment, he served as the director of bands at Kennesaw Mountain High School in Kennesaw, Ga., for 11 years. As the founding director of bands at Kennesaw Mountain High School (2000), the band program grew from its initial 85 students to more than 250 members. Under his direction, Kennesaw Mountain High School has been recognized in all areas of performance for their achievements at local, state and national levels, including concert band, jazz band, marching band, winter guard and winter percussion. They are a six-time national finalist at the Bands of America Grand National Championships, being named the 2004 Bands of America AAA National Champion and a four-time Regional Champion in Bands of America events. In December 2003, the John Philip Sousa Foundation presented the

Kennesaw Mountain High School Band the prestigious Sudler Shield of Excellence for outstanding achievement in marching band. In 2005, the band appeared in the 79th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The Kennesaw Mountain High School Wind Symphony performed at the 60th Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic held in Chicago in December 2006.

Starnes is sought out nationally and internationally as an adjudicator, clinician, guest conductor and creative designer. He serves as an adjudicator for several state, national and international organizations, including Bands of America, where he is a member of the Advisory Board, Winter Guard International, and Drum Corps International, where he served as an adjudicator and percussion caption head from 1998-2002. He was the program coordinator for Spirit Drum and Bugle Corps from 2003-07, during which time they were named a world-class finalist four times. Starnes is a member of the Yamaha Educational Artist program as well as an educational artist for Innovative Percussion and Evans Drumheads. In addition to his position at Western Carolina University, he serves as an education consultant at Music for All in Indianapolis. While serving in this role, he was appointed the program director for the Honor Band of America, which appeared in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., in 2005 and 2009.

As a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., Starnes graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1988, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in music education. He is married to Rhea Jeanne Starnes, an architect, and has a 16-year-old daughter, Hannah. In his spare time, he enjoys Indianapolis Colts football and playing with his two dogs, Oliver and Peyton.



## Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet Makes German Tour

The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet completed a tour of southwestern Germany in May 2011. The group flew into Stuttgart, Germany, and performed three concerts at WCU's sister institutions: Ludwigsburg University of Education, Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten, and the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut at the University of Tübingen. This trip was a collaboration among the WCU School of Music, the College of Fine and Performing Arts and WCU's International Programs and Services. The purpose of the trip was to promote study abroad and share the musical culture of the southern Appalachian Mountains with the people of Germany. In addition

to performing recitals at the three sister schools, the ensemble met with former WCU faculty member Christine Zimmermann, now residing in München, observed a male choir rehearsal in Ludwigsburg, performed German band music in a beer garden, and took in as many sightseeing opportunities as possible in Bavaria. The quintet also met with former and future WCU study abroad students. Highlights included visiting the Dachau Concentration Camp, Neuschwanstein Castle, the Wies Kirche, the Englebert Schmid horn factory, and the Ludwigsburg Palace. The SMBQ is currently planning a concert tour to Costa Rica in 2012.

Numerous students presented at various WCU research symposiums last spring. Presenting at the Graduate Symposium were Michael Collings (“Debussy and Improvisation”), Angela Faust (“Thurber, Dvorák and the American School of Music”) and Erin Pugh (“Coils and Cords: How Clara Rockmore’s Theremin Sings”).

Presenting at the Undergraduate Symposium were Becca Lautier (“Women in Jazz: An Investigation of Gender Roles in Jazz Music” and “A Comparison of Philosophies and Ideologies in the Ancient and Baroque Musical Periods”), Jacqueline Traywick (“Irish Street Ballads”) and Sarah Sheehan (“The Role of Race in Rap Music”). Christina Reitz served as the faculty sponsor for each of these students. Lautier also presented at WCU’s 10th annual Gender Conference.

**Cameron Murray**, former WCU horn student, recently had a successful audition

for the U.S. Marine Corps Bands, has completed basic training and is furthering his studies at the Armed Forces School of Music in Virginia Beach, Va. He will be assigned to a band after completing the program there.

**Greg Dills** received an undergraduate research grant from the WCU Honors College to attend the nief-norf Summer Festival, held June 1-15 at Furman University. Fifteen students from throughout the U.S. (including those from Eastman School of Music, Florida State University, University of Kentucky, University of South Carolina and University of Ohio) were selected to attend. The seminar was an in-depth study, analysis and performance of contemporary music for percussion and included guest artists and lecturers, clinics, master classes and formal concerts. Dills had the opportunity to perform as a soloist and chamber musician while at the festival.



## Recent Graduates

Maggie Jennings, MAED

Michael Collings, MM

Chris Visi, MM

Anne Rhymer-Schwabland, MM

Randal Harris, MM

Faith Faust, MAT

Michael McConnell, MAED

Ashleigh Cook, BSED

Kevin Kimbrough, BSED

Renee Morgan, BSED

Dustin Painter, BSED and BM

Adam Stewart, BSED

Valerie Templeton, BSED

Courtney Umphlett, BSED

Elizabeth Vance, BSED

Kevin Black, BA

Andrew Broome, BM

Chris Cox, BM

Logan Deitz, BA

Matt France, BM

Mary Allison Gray, BA

Kenneth Hawkins, BA

Ryan Hudson, BM

Paul Jones, BA

Renee Kerr, BA

Jesse Lapinski, BM

Eric Levigne, BM

Kayla Mashburn, BM

Alison Murphy, BA

Richard Parker, BM

Jevone Primus, BM

Matt Ratliff, BA

Chris Taylor, BM

Robert Willix, BA

## Student Teachers, Fall 2011

Lindsey Costner,  
*Asheville Middle School*

Billie Jean Curns,  
*Cane Creek Middle School*

Frances Stover,  
*N. Buncombe High School*

Benjamin Lupton,  
*Bethel Middle School*

Brittany Howes,  
*Smoky Mountain High School*

Parker Cox,  
*Mountain View Intermediate School*

Kelly Litfin,  
*Swain County High School*



## ALUMNI NEWS

Ashleigh Cook BSED '11 was recently hired as the new band director and chorus teacher at Cherryville High School in Gaston County, N.C.

Jarrett Goodchild BSED '10 is currently a graduate student working on his MM degree in conducting from Central Michigan University.

Rahsaan McNeill '00 BSED was voted teacher of the year for 2010-11 at Kanapaha Middle School, where he is currently director of music.

Dustin Painter BSED BMCE '11 is attending the University of Southern California and working toward a master's degree in film music.

## Alumni Invited to NCMEA Conference Reception

The NCMEA In-Service Conference will take place Sunday-Tuesday, Nov. 13-15, 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," or rather, "hey." Our alumni reception will be from

5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Hawthorne Inn, Sycamore Ballroom. This will be a special event to present our new director of athletic bands, David Starnes, and director of choral activities, Michael Lancaster. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available. See you then!

## GREETINGS FROM CULLOWHEE

(Continued from cover)

Last spring, we inaugurated a new Steinway 9-foot grand piano, purchased for the school by former Acting Provost Linda Stanford and former Chancellor John Bardo. This excellent instrument is now heard on every faculty and guest artist concert, while the older Steinway continues to be used for student recitals and ensemble performances.

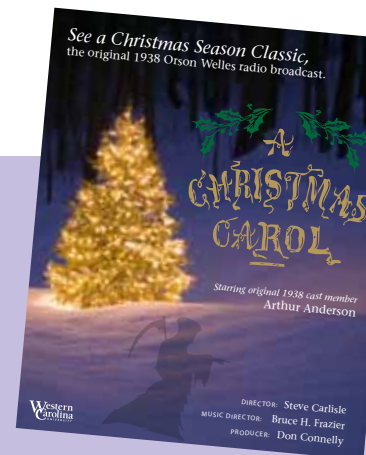
Western Carolina also welcomes a new chancellor this year: Dr. David Belcher, a concert pianist with a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Belcher has an excellent reputation as an administrator and as a musician, and we are looking forward to working with him, on stage and off. His wife, Susan, also is an accomplished musician with experience in opera and musical theatre (we hope to perform with her in concerts as well).

This fall, the Concert Choir will be joining the Asheville Symphony and Chorus in November for a performance of Mahler's Second Symphony. The university choral ensembles also will team up with the Community Chorus (now under the direction of professor emeritus Dr. Robert Holquist) for a performance of Handel's Messiah in December. The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet has completed its fourth international tour, this time to Germany, and they are busy looking into prospects for a South American tour in the spring.

Enrollment in the School of Music is now at 209 majors. Out of a class of around 56 new freshmen, 15 are recipients of North Carolina Teaching Fellowships. Unfortunately, the future of this worthy program is in doubt, so our meager scholarship resources might be even more inadequate in coming years. Please 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 anytime you're back in Cullowhee.

Will Peebles, Director



## 'A Christmas Carol' Receives Prestigious Award

(Continued from cover)

The Gabriel Awards are designed to honor works of excellence in film, network and cable television and radio programs. These include feature films and documentaries, entertainment and news programming, public service announcements, and stations that serve audiences through the positive, creative treatment of concerns to humankind. The award was presented in June at the academy's national convention in Pittsburgh.



# Have news to share?

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

Please send updates, including  
new contact information, to  
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