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Spring 2019 Newsletter

WIND ENSEMBLE AT A.B.A. CONVENTION

The K-State Wind Ensemble directed by **Dr. Frank Tracz**, was invited to perform at the 85th Annual Convention of The American Bandmasters Association (A.B.A.) in Loveland, CO, on March 6. The performance included soloists **Dr. Anna Wytko**, professor of saxophone at K-State, and Mr. Chris Castellanos, french horn performing artist with the Boston Brass. The ensemble was invited to perform at this internationally renowned organization by Col. Lowell Graham, retired conductor of the US Air Force Band, and now president of the American Bandmasters Association. K-State was one of only four university ensembles invited to perform at the Conference this year.

The A.B.A. was founded in 1929 by Edwin Franco Goldman and John Philip Sousa to honor, promote, and recognize outstanding achievement on the part of band conductors and composers. The current membership, by invitation only, consists of approximately 300 conductors and composers from across the globe and 80 associate members which provide significant services to bands and to the publication of band music. Members are nominated by current A.B.A. members and are rigorously vetted. Dr. Tracz, a member since 2012, is one of five conductors from Kansas ever to be inducted in to the A.B.A.

This was K-State's first invitation and appearance at an International conference of this scope. The Wind Ensemble performed in front of approximately 400 of the most reputable conductors, leaders, composers, and publishers in the world.



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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | School of Music, Theatre, and Dance

FROM THE DIRECTOR—DR. JEFFREY WARD
SCHOLARSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA
HITS NEW HIGH NOTES



Dear Friends and Alumni:

Greetings from the Kansas State University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance! I hope this newsletter finds you with warm weather and blue skies! In spite of winter weather blasts, an enthusiastic crowd of more than 100 supporters attended the Third Annual Scholarship Extravaganza event on Feb. 16 to enjoy fine food, stellar performances, and fundraising support for MTD students. The first ever silent auction was a huge success, with seventeen different area businesses and private donors contributing a wide variety of exciting goods and services for the auction.



The program included performances by the Saxophone Quartet, the Tap Ensemble, a presentation over the growing Drama Therapy program by Emily Trube (MA, Drama Therapy), selections from the Latin Jazz Ensemble, the Wind Ensemble sponsored by Mary Cottom, and theatre scenes from *Oklahoma!* and *Pirates of Penzance* sponsored by

CivicPlus. The Marching Band Pep Band closed out the evening with Wildcat Victory, the Wabash and the K-State Alma Mater. Students Hunter Nelson (BA, Theatre & BA, English Literature) and Chelsea Turner (BA, Theatre and BA, American Ethnic Studies) were the evening's emcees, and Don Boos, Advisory Council Member, gave an address about the value of a K-State MTD education in the life and career of his son, Joey, a professional actor.



Pictures of the event can be found on the SMTD Facebook page, with a link to giving opportunities.

Congratulations to the K-State MTD Advisory Council and the Scholarship Extravaganza committee led by Kathryn Harth on the success of this year's Scholarship Extravaganza! Through their efforts, we raised over \$18,000 for students who participate in music, theatre, and dance programs. It is thrilling to see how this event is growing and expanding each year!

Please check out our website at www.ksu.edu/mtd where you can find out about all of our performances and events. I look forward to seeing you!

-Jeff

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Susan Williams establishes award in hopes of enhancing opportunities at K-State.

Source: www.inspire.k-state.edu/your-support-in-action/campaign-news/Williams

Driven by passion, motivation and dedication, K-State alumna Dr. Susan Williams aspired to make the most of her education and fulfill her dreams. Williams pursued a degree in music education and played the piccolo for the K-State Marching Band. Prior to attending K-State, Williams studied at Ottawa University for a year but soon strived for a major change of atmosphere. “After attending a small private college for a year, I knew I needed to attend a larger university which offered more opportunities to pursue instrumental music education,” Williams said. “I wrote a number of letters to various schools, but I received a hand-written letter from the director of the music department at Kansas State University telling me I would really like K-State. He told me about all the great things that awaited me.”

Williams graduated from K-State in 1979, then earned a master’s degree in nutrition in 1986. Later, she became a First Lieutenant in the Air Force while working as a dietitian. Eventually, she pursued a career as a medical doctor. While attending K-State, Williams earned more than an education — she encountered important life lessons. “I found my inner strength, learned how to problem-solve, deepened my faith and found kindred spirits in new friends,” Williams said. “I learned leadership skills and how to teach with both

“Nothing is more important than education, and there is no better place to learn, study and grow than at Kansas State University.” – Susan Williams

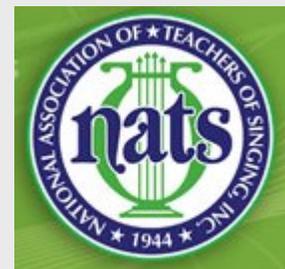
passion and compassion — lessons that I have carried with me and still use on a daily basis in my medical practice.” Williams made numerous connections at K-State. The marching band provided a significant impact for Williams, while other friends and faculty served an influential role. Williams stated K-State shaped her as an adult. She learned how to study efficiently and discovered the value of investing in her dreams. The Susan E. Williams, M.D., KSU Marching Band Faculty Leadership Award was created in order to give recognition to outstanding performances in teaching and service to faculty within the K-State Marching Band in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Nothing is more important than education, and there is no better place to learn, study and grow than at Kansas State University,” Williams said. “What I have given is a very small part indeed, but together we can help ensure every student who comes to K-State will have the financial assistance to complete their degree, and that every faculty member will have a competitive salary and top-notch resources to continue doing what they do best.”

VOICE STUDENTS FORM SNATS CHAPTER

Voice Students have established an official Student National Association Teachers of Singing chapter (SNATS). The chapter will be a departmental student organization and will help foster singing and the science of singing.

“We strive to inspire a passionate inclusive community of students and teachers of the art and science of singing; a community that works to promote a variety of singing styles instill life long learning and enrich its surrounding communities including KSU and the NATS organization”





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The School of Music, Theatre, and Dance develops creative leaders and critical thinkers through student-centered, multidisciplinary education in the performing arts.



Recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising

Written by Beth Bohn

UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, ADVISING AND ADMINISTRATION WITH 2019 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Shannon Skelton, assistant professor and lead advisor for the theatre program, is the recipient of the 2019 Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising.

Skelton advises more than 100 theatre majors and minors. As an advisor, Skelton does more than help students with course registration; his goal is to build caring, supportive relationships with each student. His approach to advising has a foundation in seven core concepts: empathy, efficiency, communication, knowledge, accessibility, facility and advocacy. He believes it is his ethical responsibility to guide students through a fulfilling educational experience in a reasonable amount of time while accruing minimal debt. Skelton uses varied technologies to serve students, including the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance's blog to share campus events, career opportunities, course announcements and other information that would enhance the experience of theatre students. Skelton also shares the perspective of his advisees when it comes to program decisions about course revisions, sequence and scheduling. In addition, he serves on an interdisciplinary team establishing a certificate program in film study, representing the educational and career goals of his advisees in shaping the curricula for this future offering.



ALUMNI APPLAUSE

The premiere performance of a [piece commissioned from KSU composition alum Alex Thomen](#) was performed by Royster Middle School's (Chanute) Vocal Plus ensemble, Saturday, Feb. 23, at the annual Kansas Music Educators Conference in Wichita, KS.

Alumnus **Brett Butler**, BM, music education, 2017, will return to KSU this fall to begin studies for his Master of Music degree. He will serve as graduate teaching assistant for percussion and bands.

Kelley Tracz, BM, Oboe Performance, 2015, is working on her DMA in Oboe performance at the University of North Carolina - Greensboro as a graduate assistant in the oboe studio. She is also performing with the Raleigh-Durham Symphony Orchestra and the New World Symphony based in Miami, Florida.

STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Emily Trube, 2nd year graduate student in drama therapy, has been hired as an activity coordinator at the Topeka Women's Prison, beginning in May of 2019. Trube has also been accepted as a masters student in addictions counseling at Washburn University.

Benedicta Akley-Quarshie has been accepted for the Ph.D. program in Theatre at Arizona State University.

Karis Eliese, senior in Musical Theatre, has been cast as "Ethel" in the ensemble of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at Scottsdale Musical Theatre Company, Arizona. Karis is a student of Dr. Amy Rosine.

Dance faculty members Kate Digby and Stephen Loch recently accompanied six undergraduate dance students, **Allison Griffin, Jazmin Royg, Emily Katzenmeier, Hailey Price, Elizabeth Hayes, Emma Hochman**, to the American College Dance Association Regional Festival held at Missouri State University in Springfield, IL. At this four-day conference, the students took classes in a wide variety of styles, and also attended seven full-length concerts of work presented by faculty, guest artists, graduate and undergraduate students from across the central state region.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

James Davis joins the SMTD Faculty in Fall of 2019 as Assistant Professor of Lighting and Sound



Design. Prof. Davis received a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Lighting Design from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication and Theatre from Sterling College in Sterling, Kansas. He has designed lighting for productions across the Midwest including eight seasons at the Clinton Area Showboat Theatre where he continues to serve as the General Manager and Resident Lighting Designer. In addition to working at the Showboat James has also worked for other theatres which include Opera Southwest, Bluff City Theatre, and Great Plains Theatre.

Dr. Colleen White joins Kansas State as Assistant Professor of Flute in Fall 2019. As a teaching artist,



she has taught flute, chamber music, and entrepreneurship courses at Colorado State University, the Metropolitan State University of Denver, and the University of Colorado Boulder. Dr. White performs in a wide variety of solo, orchestral, and chamber music settings across North America. Dr. White has presented workshops and masterclasses across the United States on a variety of topics. She has performed and presented at the National Flute Association Convention, flute fairs across the U.S., and abroad. Dr. White advises flutists nationally as a member of the National Flute Association's Career and Artistic Development Committee. She earned degrees from the University of Colorado Boulder (DMA), The Hartt School (MM), and the **University of Wisconsin Madison (BM)**.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor of horn and music theory **Jacqueline Fassler-Kerstetter** was honored as a recipient of the 2018-19 Faculty Recognition Award of the K-State Mortar Board Senior Honor Society. Dr. Fassler-Kerstetter was one of two professors that the Mortar Board Society recognized from K-State's College of Arts and Sciences. The Mortar Board Society's Faculty Recognition Award annually gives the opportunity for students in every college to nominate faculty members they believe have made a significant contribution to the academic achievement and personal growth of students at K-State University. This award is different from many awards, as it is based on student interactions with faculty members that students feel have gone above and beyond normal expectations.



Chair of music education **Dr. Phil Payne** has been selected as a [Fellow of the Modern Band Higher Education program](#) through the nationally renowned Little Kids Rock program based out of Montclair, NJ. The Modern Band program teaches kids to perform, improvise, and compose using popular styles, including rock, pop, reggae, hip hop, R & B, and other modern styles. Modern Band classes feature guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, vocals, technology, and computers. The Modern Band programs also expand upon existing music programming such as Marching Band, Jazz Band and Chorus, making music available to children who might otherwise not participate in traditional music classes.

Dr. Steven Maxwell, associate professor of tuba and euphonium in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, has released his first solo CD titled "Pretty Please!" on the Emeritus Recordings label. The title of the album is drawn from Maxwell's relationship with the composers represented as he commissioned each new work. The album features the world premier recording of five compositions by award-winning composers including "Rhapsody" for tuba and piano, "Op. 94" by Daniel Baldwin, "MaxwellII" for solo tuba and chamber ensemble by Robert Denham, "Shedder's Corner" for tuba and piano by Joshua Daniel Britt, "Interplay" for tuba, bassoon and piano by Sy Brandon, and "Absurdities" for tuba and digital media by Paul Hunt, professor of music at Kansas State University. The recording also features the following K-State faculty: Amanda Arrington, piano; Susan Maxwell, bassoon; Tod Kerstetter, clarinet; Karen Large, flute; Jim Johnson, trumpet; Jacqueline Fassler-Kerstetter, horn; Paul Hunt, trombone; and Kurt Gartner, director. The CD is available through Maxwell's website and will soon be available through CD Baby, Apple Music and Spotify. The production of this album was made possible in part by grants from the Co-Op Press Recording Grant, Emeritus Recordings and Kansas State University.



Kathy Voecks, associate professor of scenic design and head of design, was the scenic designer for the world premiere production of *Return To Niobrara* at the Rose Theatre in Omaha, NE. This play, commissioned by the Rose and written by Cherokee Nation playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle, was previously workshopped at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as part of the New Visions/New Voices program in 2018.

FACULTY NEWS



Anna Marie Wytko, associate professor of saxophone, performed Grammy award-winning American composer Libby Larsen's Holy Roller as concerto soloist with Dr. Frank Tracz, Director of Bands, and the KSU Wind Ensemble for the American Bandmasters Association Convention held in Loveland, Colorado. Dr. Wytko also presented guest artist solo recitals and master classes throughout England at institutions such as the Royal Conservatory of Music of London, Trinity Conservatory of Music, and the Royal Birmingham Conservatory of Music, to name a few. Additionally, Professor Wytko presented

concert performances of a new electroacoustic work titled *The Loveliness of Air* by composer and saxophonist Dr. Joseph Wytko at the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art and at the Volland Store in the Flint Hills. *The Loveliness of Air* is an electroacoustic original composition based upon selected poetry and prose of children under the age of 15 who were victims of the Theresienstadt (Terezín) Nazi concentration camp between the years 1942 and 1944. It includes narrations in nearly one dozen languages. A professional CD recording of the work will be released in Fall of 2019. Additionally, upcoming events for Anna Marie include performing as featured concerto soloist with the Symphonic Band of Montevideo for the Latin American Saxophone Alliance World Congress to be held in Argentina and Uruguay. She will also present solo and chamber music recitals and master classes at the National Conservatory of Buenos Aires in Argentina.

Tom Hallaq's most recent documentary, "The Pipes at All Faiths Chapel," has been recognized as a Gold award recipient in the AVA Digital Awards 2019 competition. Hallaq, assistant professor from the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, partnered with **David Pickering**, university organist and associate professor of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, to tell the story of the Memorial Organ at All Faiths Chapel through this video documentary. Platinum and Gold Winners are listed on the website at avaawards.com. The winner database can be searched by city, state and category. Hallaq produces his video work under the name The Black Tag Kompany, named by using the initials of his three sons. Hallaq's documentary aired in January on KTWU, Kansas Public Television and again on March 10. It can also be [viewed online](#).



Frank Tracz, director of bands, has been guest conducting, clinicing, and lecturing across the USA and Canada this past year including the California All-State band, honor bands and clinics in Virginia, Wyoming, Texas, Minnesota, Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, Colorado, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Regina (Canada), Michigan, Illinois, and Utah.

Sally Bailey, professor of drama therapy, presented on using sculpting (the drama version) to teach concepts to students and clients at the United Associations Conference on Friday, March 8 in Wichita, KS. UAC is part of the Kansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.



FACULTY NEWS, CONTINUED



Jerry Jay Cranford, assistant professor in the SMTD, won the [2018 BroadwayWorld Kansas City Award](#) for Best Director of a Musical (Professional) for "Newsies." Regional productions, touring shows and more were all included in the awards, honoring productions that opened between Oct. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2018. "Newsies," also choreographed by Cranford, was performed in summer 2018 at the Coterie/Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City. Cranford also directed and choreographed "Hairspray," which was named Best Musical (Professional). The musical was performed in summer 2018 at the Starlight Theatre in Kansas City, MO. Cranford also won the Best Director (Musical) for "Newsies" from the [Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards](#), which celebrates excellence in music, performing arts and visual arts each year. Nominations are voted on by patrons and readers of Omaha Magazine. Cranford continues to keep very busy with all manner of speaking and theatre engagements across the country!

Kurt Gartner, K-State associate director of music and professor of percussion, has been recognized by the [Johnny Pacheco Latin Music and Jazz Festival](#), Lehman College/City University of New York, for Excellence in Latin Music and Jazz Education. The award was presented by Allan Molnar, festival executive producer and artistic director, on Nov. 15, 2018, during the performance of the K-State Latin Jazz Ensemble, which was a featured group of that evening's concert. The Jazz Ensemble's participation in the Pacheco Festival was documented in the [Fall 2018 edition](#) of the SMTD Newsletter.



Wayne Everett Goins, University distinguished professor of music, has been very busy this semester, appointed by University President Richard Myers to serve administrative duties on the search committee for the upcoming Vice Provost position. In teaching, his jazz combos and big bands gave outstanding performances recently in the KSU Union Ball Room and Forum Hall. Goins has four extensive articles already published as Senior Editor and Musician-In-Residence for Positive Feedback magazine, an audiophile journal for vinyl enthusiasts. Goins still plays regularly on Sunday brunch at Bluestem Bistro, and gave a feature length concert on February 1 at the Manhattan Arts Center with top jazz artists as guests from Kansas City, MO. Goins invited Peter Cassino, a world-renown jazz pianist, to join his jazz students and provide performances and lectures throughout the school of music. Finally, Goins has been invited to perform as guest artist at the Jazz Festival at Eastern New Mexico University on April 6.

Professor of clarinet **Dr. Tod Kerstetter** presented a lecture-recital on October 27, 2018 at the American Single Reed Summit at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. Dr. Kerstetter's presentation began with commentary and the history of Eric Dolphy's famous bass clarinet improvisation on *God Bless the Child*, and concluded with Kerstetter giving a complete performance of the work. On February 16, 2019, Kerstetter was the featured guest artist at the University of Central Florida Clarinet Day in Orlando, FL. Dr. Kerstetter presented a recital along with UCF Professor of Clarinet Dr. Keith Koons, gave a presentation for high school students on jazz improvisation, and conducted a clarinet choir reading session featuring several of his own arrangements for clarinet choir.



FACULTY NEWS, CONTINUED

Frederick Burrack, Phillip Payne and Jeffrey Ward presented several conference sessions, panels and posters at the seventh International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education, March 19-22. The event brings together music educators from all levels of teaching, from elementary school to higher education, to explore the complex issue of assessment. Ward, director of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, presented "Assessment Practices and Mission Alignment of Collegiate Divisional Community Schools of the Arts in United States Land-Grant Institutions." Payne, chair of music education, and Ward presented "An Examination of Music Teacher Education Faculty Perceptions Regarding Indicators of Potential Success among Music Teacher Education Candidates." Burrack, director of assessment, Payne, and Ward presented "Guiding program improvement through intensified data analysis utilizing automated data collection and visualization dashboards." Burrack and Payne presented a panel with Kelly Parkes from Teachers College of Columbia University, and Brian Wesolowski from the University of Georgia titled "An Emerging Language Supporting Current Processes of Assessment in Music Education."



Both Burrack and Ward published chapters in Volume I of "The Oxford Handbook of Assessment Policy and Practice in Music Education," edited by Timothy Brophy. Burrack wrote "The Development of Standards-Based Assessment in Music" and "Music Assessment in Higher Education," and Ward wrote "Using Accountability to Improve Student Learning in Higher Education Programs." The two-volume set includes contributions from across the globe to provide authority on assessment, measurement, and evaluation of student learning in music.

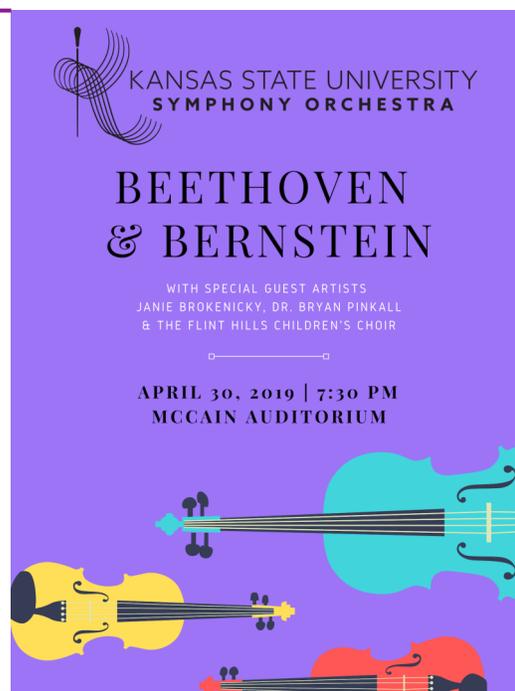
Faculty in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance have received Grammy awards and nominations, and Emmy awards; produced recordings on international and national CD labels; published books and journal articles with international and national publishing houses and professional organizations; and performed and presented research in every continent in the world, except Antarctica.

ORCHESTRA NEWS

The K-State Orchestra hosts String Fling each January for Kansas String students in grades 5-9. This year nearly 450 students registered for the event. The students were divided into six different orchestras and performed for friends and family after two fun-filled days of rehearsals. K-State string players helped host and run the event.

Eight students from the K-State string division traveled to Albuquerque, NM, in March in order to attend and present at the national American String Teachers Association (ASTA) conference. They collaborated with colleagues from WSU and Texas Tech University and brought home ideas and techniques for future projects at K-State.

Rachel Dirks is the director of orchestral studies at K-State.



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SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**BEETHOVEN
& BERNSTEIN**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS
JANIE BROKENICKY, DR. BRYAN PINKALL
& THE FLINT HILLS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

APRIL 30, 2019 | 7:30 PM
MCCAIN AUDITORIUM

INTERNATIONAL CHORAL EXCHANGE AT K-STATE

For the first time ever, K-State Choirs hosted 28 international conductors from China and Raine Pienaar, an International Choral Exchange Program Scholar from Pretoria, South Africa.

The Chinese conductors travelled to K-State on February 25 to attend a pre-conference workshop at K-State to prepare for the National American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Conference in Kansas City. During the pre-conference, the 28 conductors had the opportunity to observe K-State's Grand Chorus rehearsal, attend a Choral Methods course, and 4 distinguished guest conductors led a clinic with K-State's Women's Choir.

K-State Choirs welcomed Raine Pienaar, one of 6 International Choral Exchange Fellows from South Africa, on March 4. Mr. Pienaar was K-State Choir's guest conductor and guest lecturer of the day, and worked with our graduate conducting class, Grand Chorus, Choral Methods and Women's Chorus.

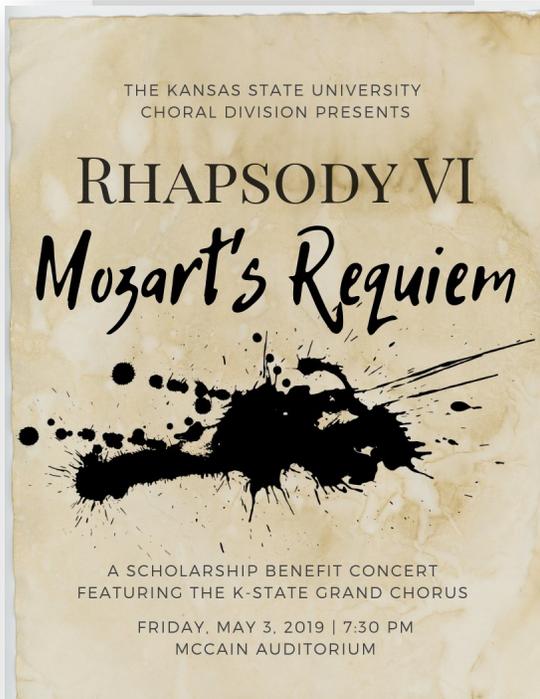
Music alumni are a powerful presence throughout the state of Kansas, the region, and the nation...

"RHAPSODY VI" DEDICATED TO MR. ROD WALKER

The Kansas State University Choral Division will present the 6th annual Rhapsody scholarship benefit concert on Friday, May 3, 2019, at 7:30pm. And for the first time in its history, Rhapsody will be held at home in Manhattan at McCain Auditorium. The event will feature the K-State Grand Chorus, conducted by **Dr. Julie Yu**, in a complete performance with orchestra of Mozart's "Requiem" along works for large chorus including Kirke Mechem's "Danuel," Samuel Barber's "Agnus Dei" and Johann Sebastian Bach's "Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden." Tickets can be [purchased online](#) or in person from the McCain Auditorium Box Office.

This year's Rhapsody performance will be dedicated to the memory of Mr. Rod Walker, Professor Emeritus and previous director of choral activities at K-State, who died on December 31, 2019. The Choral Division would like to extend a special invitation to Rhapsody to Mr. Walker's many former students.

Over his forty-one years teaching at K-State (1966-2007), Rod Walker laid the foundation upon which the K-State Choral Division is built. To name of a few of his many accomplishments, Mr. Walker guest conducted 420 all-state, university, honor, regional, divisional, and other festival choruses founded and directed the American Symposium for Choral Music, created the Summer Choral Institute for gifted high school singers (now in its 41st year), and performed nine concert tours on three continents with the K-State Choirs.



K-STATE CHOIR PROFESSORS, DIRECTORS, STUDENTS GAIN RECOGNITION AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Several K-State Choirs professors, directors, and students received recognition at the biannual National American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Conference. The National ACDA conference was hosted in Kansas City, MO, from February 27-March 2. The individuals that received recognition were **Dr. Joshua Oppenheim, Dr. Bryan Pinkall, Dr. Patricia Thompson, Mr. David Simmons Wood, and Mr. Kolby Van Camp.** **Dr. Julie Yu**, associate professor and co-director of choral studies at K-State, **RJ Leonard**, K-State graduate student majoring in choral conducting and **Marley Wareham**, K-State senior majoring in music education, attended the conference and represented the K-State Choral Program. Dr. Julie Yu currently serves as the president of the Southwestern ACDA conference.

Dr. Joshua Oppenheim, associate professor and co-director of the K-State Choral Department, composed a piece that was performed at the National ACDA conference. His piece is entitled "El Hombre Armado."

Dr. Bryan Pinkall, voice professor at K-State, performed with the [Kansas City Chorale](#) at the conference. The Kansas City Chorale is a professional ensemble which performs traditional and contemporary music.

Dr. Patricia Thompson, associate voice professor at K-State, performed with the [Spire Chamber Ensemble](#) at the conference. The Spire Chamber Ensemble is a professional choral group comprised of performers from the United States and Canada.

Mr. David Simmons Wood, the director of K-State's historical performance ensemble, Collegium Musicum, and music professor at K-State, was chosen to co-present an interest session at the conference. The session was entitled "Rediscovering Early Music". Mr. Wood presented alongside directors and staff of the acclaimed choral ensemble [Seraphic Fire](#) and Early Music America, the Northern American service organization for early music. The session focused on music of the Renaissance as a means of teaching musicianship and musicality.

Mr. Kolby Van Camp, sophomore double majoring in Vocal Performance and Music Education, composed a piece that was performed at the conference. His piece was performed by the men of [Allegro Choirs](#) and is entitled "In Flanders Fields."

CHORAL NEWS



STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM UNIQUE PERCUSSION OPPORTUNITY

The annual Percussive Arts Society Kansas Chapter Day of Percussion was held on Saturday, March 23, on the campus of the University of Kansas.

K-State Percussion Ensembles I and II performed to a capacity audience. The concert followed a coaching session that Percussion Ensemble I members received from members of [Sō Percussion](#), an internationally-recognized percussion quartet. K-State students **Braedon Bomgardner**, sophomore, majoring in music education, and **Nathan Leininger**, freshman, majoring in music education, participated in the event's collegiate percussion competition. In the field of competitors from Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, Bomgardner and Leininger took third place in the keyboard percussion and snare drum categories, respectively. Additionally, Leininger was a member of an auditioned ensemble that performed with Sō Percussion on the event's final concert.



Our students develop strengths as communicators, critical thinkers, problem solvers and lifelong learners.

SPOTLIGHT ON DRAMA THERAPY

MUSIC

THEATRE

DANCE

250+ EVENTS

EACH YEAR

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The Drama Therapy Program hosted Francis Sillau and Sue Loesl for a Universal Design for Learning workshop on Friday, March 22. Music education students as well as drama therapy students and other interested faculty and students were able to come and learn the clearest theory for making education accessible to all students.

April 4-6 the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA) Education Approval Committee visited to review the MA in Theatre/Drama Therapy to evaluate if the program will be certified as an NADTA approved program. Results from the visit will be written into a report that will be presented to the NADTA board this summer.

The Barrier-Free Theatre production of *Superhero Academy*, an original one act play created by the cast, will be presented April 26 and 27 at 7:30 pm and April 28 at 2:30pm in the Purple Masque Theatre. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased from the SMTD box office. Drama therapy students and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from the Manhattan community make up the cast of this production. In this play, you will learn how to become a superhero -- so if that has been on your bucket list, please make plan to come! Also come if you just want to have a really good time!

NOTABLE BAND EDUCATORS ON CAMPUS

Kansas State University Bands played host to a few professional music educators who have gained national recognition throughout their careers. Diane Koutsulis, a retired high school band director from Las Vegas, NV, was on campus from January 28-30. Her career, which includes countless accolades and accomplishments, also highlights membership in the American Bandmasters Association (ABA). This is an immense honor for anyone, but highly impressive for a high school band director. While on campus, she shared her skills with the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, undergraduate and graduate conducting classes, and provided masterclasses for the University Band conductors. Additionally, University of Kansas Professor Emeritus Robert “Bob” Foster and his son Rob, a Kansas City area band director, were also on campus to assist the Kansas State University Wind Ensemble in preparation for its ABA performance in Loveland, CO, in March.

CONCERT BAND CLINIC HOSTS 700 STUDENTS

The 26th annual Concert Band Clinic was held the weekend of January 25 and hosted over 700 high school musicians. Guest conductors included Brent Ghiglione from the University of Regina, Dr. Jay Gilbert from Doane University, Diane Koutsulis, retired Las Vegas Band Director, Donald Linn from the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Scott Lubaroff from the University of Central Florida, and Dr. Anthony Pursell from the University of Central Missouri.

WIND SYMPHONY AT KMEA

On February 22, the Kansas State University Wind Symphony performed at the Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) In-Service. The Wind Symphony was one of three collegiate ensembles selected to perform at this year’s conference. Groups selected to perform were required to submit audio recordings that were evaluated by a blind panel. This is the first time this ensemble has been selected to perform at KMEA in its four-year existence. The ensemble performed John Mackey’s Night on Fire, Gustav Holst’s Second Suite in F, Mark Camphouse’s Yosemite Autumn, and Yasuhide Ito’s Festal Scenes. The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Alex Wimmer.

Dr. Tracz and Dr. Wimmer also co-presented a session entitled, “Build it, They Will Come.” This session provided perspectives and tips aimed to assist Kansas music educators in building better music programs to benefit their students, teachers, and communities. Dr. Wimmer also co-presented sessions with Dr. Jim Johnson (trumpet professor, “From B to Z (Bach to Zimmer): How Film Music can Reinforce our Understanding of Music Principles”) and Dr. Phil Payne (head of music education, “Mission: (Im) Possible – Developing Critical Thinking Through Assessment Creativity”).

KSU BANDS

The Cat Band has been traveling to support our Women’s and Men’s basketball teams !

Women’s Big 12 at the Chesapeake Arena in Oklahoma City, OK - March 8-10, 2019

Men’s Big 12 at the Spring Center in Kansas City, MO - March 14-15, 2019



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