

Kansas State University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance



STUDENTS SET THE STAGE



Alongside our mainstage faculty directed season of plays, the 2017/2018 season features student work in the Second Stage at the Purple Masque Theatre.

Two student-produced productions and two brand-new musicals written by students are part of the season. In September, "Becky Shaw," directed by **Jonah Ericson** (senior in Theatre and English), opened in the Purple Masque Theatre and featured design elements

exclusively by students. At the end of October, another student-produced play, "The Effect," directed by **Peighton Jamison** (senior in Theatre), opened in the Purple Masque and initiated dialogue about mental illness.



In the spring, the Second Stage season begins with a staged reading of "An American in Beirut," a new musical with music and lyrics by **Alex Wakim** (senior in Music) and book and lyrics by **Jonah Ericson**, directed by Jennifer Vellenga, Associate Director for Theatre. The Second Stage season will conclude with a production of the national award-winning "Inn-Dependent," a musical written by **Blake Cordell** (senior in Theatre, Music Composition, and French) and directed by **Trace Campbell** (junior in Theatre).



The School of Music, Theatre, and Dance is on social media! Follow us for all the latest information on upcoming events, concerts, and alumni news!

@KStateMTD



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WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR ALUMNI!

Please send your news and updates to Jeffrey Ward at jeff98@ksu.edu

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Alumni:

Greetings from the Kansas State University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance! The first half of the fall semester has seen a wonderful start to our school year! Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

November 28, 7:30 PM: Jazz Big Bands (Forum Hall, K-State Student Union)

November 30, 7:30 PM: Faculty Recital Series: KSU Faculty Brass Quintet (All Faiths Chapel) *reception to follow*

November 30-December 2: Winter Dance '17 (Chapman Theatre) *reception to precede December 1 performance*

December 3, 2:30, 5:00 PM: Festival of Holiday Choral Music (St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manhattan)

December 5, 7:30 PM: K-State Orchestra's An Evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein (McCain Auditorium)

December 7, 7:30 PM: Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony (McCain Auditorium)

We have another wonderful spring semester of performances planned, but I would like you to please put on your calendar our **2nd Annual Scholarship Extravaganza** at the K-State Union Ballroom on **February 16 at 6:00pm**. This will be a wonderful evening with fine food and performances by our students, including:

- Dr. Wayne Goins' Student Jazz Combo
- Modern Dance Choreographed by Prof. Kate Digby
- A Cappella vocals from In-a-Chord
- Scenes from the musical, *Into the Woods*

In order for this event to be a success, the Music, Theatre, and Dance Advisory Council is seeking sponsorships both in-kind and monetary so that 100% of ticket sales can go toward our scholarship fund. *If you are able to invest in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance as an Extravaganza Sponsor or donate to our scholarship or MTD Excellence Fund, please call me at 785-532-5740 or email me at jeff98@ksu.edu.*

Keep an eye out for invitations to our Extravaganza – I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

2nd Annual Scholarship Extravaganza

February 16, 2018

6:00 pm at the K-State Union Ballroom

To sponsor the event or to donate, contact Jeffrey Ward at jeff98@ksu.edu or call 785-532-5740.



MUSIC IN KC

Benny Lee, who was selected as the 2014 Kansas City Philanthropist of the Year, hosted a recital by music faculty Tod Kerstetter, clarinet, and Amanda Arrington, piano. With an attendance of nearly 100, we were able to share our student's stories but also the musical artistry of our faculty. Big



thanks to Benny and Edith Lee, Dean Carol Shanklin, Dr. Kurt Gartner, and our music students who helped with this event.



STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

John Ashburn, Ph.D. Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction (Music Education cognate), has been offered and accepted a saxophone position with the United States Marine Band upon completion of his doctoral work. John is a student of Anna Marie Wytko, Associate Professor of Music.

David Whitman's (MM '08) album "Oh, Clara!" has been submitted for a 2018 Grammy nomination in the categories of: Best Jazz Instrumental Album, Best Engineered Album, Best Improvised Jazz Solo, and Best Instrumental Composition.

K-State piano students continued their studies in the summer at several internationally recognized institutions. **Matthew Meals** participated in the Florida International Piano Festival in Gainesville, Florida. **Dustin Hayes** studied at the Adamant School in Vermont and is continuing his piano education during the fall semester at Salzburg College in Salzburg, Austria.



The **Kansas State University Saxophone Quartets** presented a concert at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, Kansas as part of the Gallery's Concert Series (October 2017). The program featured four premiere saxophone quartets, including students ranging from Freshmen level to PhD level in year of study. The KSU Saxophone Quartet was featured at the 2017 Spotlight K-State, a showcase event hosted by President Myers that highlights excellence in innovative, creative, and unique teaching on the KSU campus. One of the select missions of the KSU Saxophone Quartet Program is to study and perform music originally written for saxophone quartet. A variety of musical styles and national/international influences are studied and programmed.



This summer, **Morgan Lynn Sterrett** (senior in Theatre), after completing a successful run in "Mamma Mia!" at Great Plains Theatre in Abilene, KS, worked as a marketing intern for world-renowned New York Stage & Film at Vassar & New York Stage and Film's Powerhouse Theatre. Based out of Poughkeepsie, New York, Morgan marketed for their summer season, which included new plays by Josh Radnor and Kevin Armento, as well as workshops of new musicals, including the highly-anticipated "The Secret Life of Bees," by Duncan Sheik, Lynn Nottage, and Susan Birkenhead.



Blake Cordell (fifth year in Music Composition and Theatre) spent his summer working theatre contracts and pursuing research opportunities in a number of different locations. In May, he travelled with faculty member, Jennifer Vellenga to New York to work on *Forward* by Chantal Bilodeau. This new play was performed at K-State in the 2015-2016 season and Blake was the sound designer of that production. This summer, he supported the new script as sound designer, music director and arranger. He took the Norwegian music of the original production and transcribed it for the new performers, most of whom have Broadway and Off-

Broadway credits. In July and August, Blake as a lighting designer for a theatre in Nebraska. Compared to theatre work in a big city with Broadway actors, this contract gave him the opportunity to work for a summer-stock theatre with a young ensemble in residence, taking on many roles in addition to being the lighting designer. Designing for *Hairspray* and a cabaret of Broadway songs proved to be an invaluable experience.

Music Alum Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Dave Roth (BM '89) was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Merit Award. Mr. Roth is an active percussionist in the Broadway musical theater scene and is currently performing in the Broadway revival of *Cats*! Prior to his current show he held the percussion chair in *Finding Neverland*, *Evita*, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, *A Christmas Story* at famed Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *The Pirate Queen* where he also served as an assistant conductor (<https://www.daveroth.com/>).



Dave Roth, center, accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award from Dean Amit Chakrabarti, right, and Director of SMTD Jeff Ward, left.

MUSIC EDUCATION FACULTY AND STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH WORLDWIDE

K-State's homecoming theme this year was "Wildcats Worldwide." Music education faculty and students have exemplified that sentiment in 2017 with research presentations in three continents!

Drs. Frederick Burrack, Phillip Payne, and Jeffrey Ward presented papers at the 6th International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education at Birmingham City University in the United Kingdom. While they were in the neighborhood, Drs. Burrack and Payne presented another paper at the 10th International Conference for Research in Music Education in Bath. In Bath, Dr. Burrack co-presented two additional papers with Dr. Kelly Parkes from Teachers College in Columbia University and Dr. Brian Wesolowski from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Ruth Gurgel, assistant professor of music, and seven undergraduate researchers in music education presented two research studies at their work in March at the Cultural Diversity in Music Education international conference in Kathmandu, Nepal; in May at the Mountain Lake National Colloquium in Pembroke, Virginia; and in September at the Symposium on Music Teacher Education in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Student researchers Stephanie Goering, Logan Caywood, Alicia Jackson, Shelby Goss, Elias Gillespie and Talia Falcon presented their study, "Humans, Not Heroes: Teachers' Implementation of Culturally Sensitive and Relevant

Pedagogy in Music Classrooms." The study documents the pedagogical practices and ideologies of music educators across the U.S. who maintain proportionate membership of minoritized populations in their classrooms. Each student researcher completed a data collection trip with Gurgel, interviewing and observing music teachers in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Los Alamitos and the Bronx.



Ryan Dillon, student researcher, presented his project, "Shattering the Glass Ceiling: Identifying and Overcoming Barriers to Access in Music Education." poster. In this phenomenological study, Gurgel and Dillon describe the experiences of undergraduate students who have encountered barriers to access in school music education; explore how these barriers are constructed, how they function and their effects; and translate the experiences of the participants into strategies to provide equitable and open access to music education. Students also received research and travel grants from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry and the College of Arts and Sciences to support their research and presentations.



State of the Art

K-State SMTD has newly upgraded and renovated performance spaces, thanks to generous donors and alumni.

On September 19, 2017, we celebrated the grand opening and dedication of our newly renovated Purple Masque Lobby, now known as the Sandy Chastan Lobby. We at Kansas State University Theatre would like to thank Sandy



Chastan (MA in Theatre, 2016) for all she has done to support our students. Please come celebrate and visit the lobby at our second stage productions this season.

Renovations to Chapman Theatre in Nichols Hall were made possible through the Mark A. Chapman Foundation. New seating, a redesigned stage, state-of-the art lighting and sound, and more now make Chapman the ideal space for students to learn and perform. Join us this season!



FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Frederick Burrack, professor of music, was one of 5 people selected to participate on the Knowledge Development Task Force. This task force, organized by the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education, will meet monthly for two years with a mission to advance the body of knowledge devoted to assessing and improving student learning in higher education.

Dr. Cora Cooper, professor of music, was presented with the 2017 Certificate of Merit by the Kansas chapter of the American String Teachers Association, citing her work promoting music by women composers. Dr. Cooper compiled and edited a four-volume graded anthology, "Violin Music by Women," which seeks to make performing editions of these compositions accessible to teachers and students at every stage of development. She has also completed the first two volumes of a sister anthology, "Viola Music by Women." Both are published by Sleepy Puppy Press.



Prof. Jerry Jay Cranford, assistant professor of theatre, had a busy summer. After headlining as John Wilkes Booth for Kansas City's Spinning Tree Theatre in an Actors Equity Association Union production of Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, he directed the Midwest premiere and only the second production of *Garfield the Musical* featuring alum Darrington Clark and current KSU sophomore Lauren Taylor. He then spent a month in Hilton Head, SC as director/choreographer of Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein the Musical* for the Southeast Summer Theatre Institute featuring the Broadway national touring set. The internationally recognized musical theatre camp accepted 28

performers from 4 countries and 19 states.

Dr. Slawomir Dobrzanski, professor of music, released a world-premiere recording of previously unknown piano music by the Polish composer Chevalier Anton de Kontski (1817-1899). The CD was published by the London (UK) based label *Acte Prealable*. Additionally, Dr. Dobrzanski presented a lecture on the 19th-century Polish influences on American piano music at the International Interdisciplinary Conference "Poles and Polish Diaspora in North America," which was Sept. 21-22 at the Emigration Museum — Muzeum Emigracji — in Gdynia, Poland.

Prof. Julie Pentz, associate professor of dance, was elected to a three-year term as the Advisory Director of Students on the Advisory Board of Directors of the National Dance Education Organization.

Dr. David Pickering, associate professor of music, was awarded a Big XII Faculty Fellowship, to support his work with Dr. John Schwandt and the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Pickering was also awarded an E. Power Biggs Fellowship of the Organ Historical Society. The fellowship, named after the famous American organist E. Power Biggs, is awarded to applicants with an interest in the American pipe organ.

Dr. Amy Rosine, associate professor of music, and collaborator, Sandra Mosteller, perform as *Sorores Duo* and have been selected as a semi-finalist for the American Prize in Chamber Music Performance. The American Prize is a series of new, non-profit national competitions in the performing arts providing cash awards, professional adjudication and regional, national and international recognition for the best recorded performances by ensembles and individuals each year in the United States at the professional, college/university, church, community

and secondary school levels. Administered by Hat City Music Theater, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Danbury, Connecticut, The American Prize was founded in 2009 and is awarded annually. The competitions of The American Prize are open to all U.S. citizens, whether living in this country or abroad, and to others currently living, working and/or studying in the United States of America, its protectorates and territories.

Dr. Frank Tracz, professor of music, conducted the Packard Band in Warren, OH this summer. The Packard Band is the legacy of W.D. and Katherine Packard whose estate built the W.D. Packard Music Hall. Opening in 1955, the Hall is the cultural center of Warren with free monthly concerts from the Packard Band. Additionally, Dr. Tracz was a guest lecturer at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and conducted a leadership workshop in Houston with the Concord Blue Devils.

Dr. Anna Marie Wytko, associate professor of music, served as featured American saxophonist-in-residence at the fourth International Saxophone Festival of Montevideo, Uruguay. Wytko performed as soloist and recitalist, in addition to conducting teaching workshops for students from around the world. Pictured is Wytko with Alain Crepin, director of the Belgian Air Force Band.



Dr. Wytko performed as soloist and recitalist, in addition to conducting teaching workshops for students from around the world. Pictured is Wytko with Alain Crepin, director of the Belgian Air Force Band.

Dr. Julie Yu, associate professor of music, was selected by the American Choral Directors Association to represent the United States in Kenya as a part of the International Choral Exchange Program.

SMTD faculty pursue and perfect their art locally, nationally, and internationally. As renowned leaders and collaborators in their fields, they continue to be recognized for their excellence in performance, research, and teaching.

NEW FACES IN SMTD

Prof. LaVonne Canfield is an Instructor of Theatre. No stranger to Manhattan, Prof. Canfield frequently directs productions for the Manhattan Arts Center. She holds a Master of Arts in Drama Therapy from Kansas State University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from Florida International University. Previously, Prof. Canfield worked as a registered Drama Therapist with Encore Theater Works and Drama Therapy in Manhattan and a drama therapist for the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex in Topeka. Prof. Canfield also has significant teaching experience, most notably as an Adjunct Professor at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, FL.



Dr. James Johnson is not actually new but is in a new position as Assistant Professor of Trumpet. The last two years, Jim has been building the trumpet studio here at K-State, leading his students to an appearance in the National Trumpet Competition in Denver last March. Dr. Johnson holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Trumpet Performance from Florida State University. Prior studies include a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from Kansas State University with Professor Emeritus Gary Mortensen. Dr. Johnson completed his undergraduate degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Music Education.



Dr. Alyssa Morris joins us as an Assistant Professor of Oboe and Music Theory. Dr. Morris holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Oboe Performance from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Additionally, she holds a Master of Music and Bachelor of Music from Brigham Young University. Dr. Morris has appeared as a soloist in venues throughout the United States, Scandinavia, the British Isles, and Western Europe. She performed as a recitalist at the 2014 and 2016 International Double Reed (IDRS) Conventions at New York University and Columbus State University. Dr. Morris is currently the principal oboe of the Topeka Symphony and previously was Associate Principal Oboe of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. She has additionally performed with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Cincinnati Bach Ensemble, the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, and the Utah Lyric Opera.



Dr. Augustin Muriago joins us as Instructor of Piano where he teaches class and applied piano and courses in piano pedagogy. Originally from Argentina, Dr. Muriago holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Hart School of Music at the University of Hartford, a Master of Music from New York University, and a Bachelor of Music from Rowan University. In addition to traditional instruction, Dr. Muriago is a certified Suzuki method teacher. He has offered master classes and adjudicated competitions in the US and Argentina.



Dr. Alex Wimmer is also a K-Stater, completing his MM and Ph.D. from Kansas State University, serving as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Band program since 2012. We are fortunate to hold on to Dr. Wimmer as the Assistant Director of Bands, where he will work with all of our athletic bands, conduct the Wind Symphony, and teach conducting. Previously, Dr. Wimmer was the Director of Bands at Gretna High School and the Assistant Director of Bands at Gretna Middle School from 2007-2012. He was a recipient of the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award in 2011.



Sharyn Worcester is joining the K-State School of Music, Theatre, and Dance as our academic advisor. In this role, she will work with our faculty in recruiting and advising undergraduate students. Prior to her appointment at K-State, Ms. Worcester was a band director at Junction City High School. In addition to conducting ensembles and teaching music theory, she was the Fine Arts and Human Services Academy Leader, supporting students interested in pursuing a career in the fine arts. Ms. Worcester received her Master of Music and Bachelor of Music Education from Kansas State University.



K-State Traditions

The 2017 Halloween rehearsal for the Pride of Wildcat Land K-State Marching Band included the baritone section bringing their A-game as Snow White and the Dwarves and also the first practice in snow fall this season! Go cats!





AUDITIONS

MUSIC

Music auditions for scholarships and studios for majors, minors and non-majors.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

On-Campus Auditions

Nov. 9, 2017 *(part of Careers in Music and Future Music Educators Day)*

Jan. 20, 2018 *(part of Concert Band Clinic)*

Feb. 3, 2018

Visit k-state.edu/music for more information about auditions.

VOICE

Visit kstatevoiceauditions.net and scroll to the "Audition Process" section for information.

THEATRE

Theatre Scholarship Day

Auditions and Interviews

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018

Nichols Hall

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Theatre

- Acting/directing
- Design/tech
- Stage management
- Theatre literature
- Musical theatre

Find an application at k-state.edu/theatre/students/scholarships.

DANCE

Day of Dance

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

April 6, 2018

Dance scholarship auditions for minors and class with dance faculty.

Visit k-state.edu/dance and click "Academics" for an application.

Contact Sharyn Worcester at 785-532-3823 or ses8555@k-state.edu for information about any of these programs, or to schedule a campus visit.

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

New Community School Expands Regional Offerings

The School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, in conjunction with the Manhattan Arts Center, recently established the Community School for the Performing Arts (CSPA) to expand and enhance performing arts opportunities in the region. CSPA offers classes, workshops, and private lessons for students of all ages.

The mission of this joint venture is to provide the highest level of performing arts education to the region, which complements, supplements, and supports the arts education efforts of school and community organizations.

Through CSPA, MTD and MAC work together to create new arts education offerings, recruit and identify highly qualified instructors, and advocate for arts education in Manhattan and surrounding areas.

CSPA is supported through the Lincoln and Dorothy Deihl Endowed Fund Grant Committee and the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation.



Join us at K-State! Mark your calendar now for these events:

- String Fling: January 12-14
- Concert Band Clinic: January 19-21
- Not Without Laughter: February 1-10
- Scholarship Extravaganza: February 16
- An American in Beirut: February 22-24
- Speed Dating Tonight: March 8-11
- Inn-Dependent: April 5-7
- SpringDance '18: April 6-7
- Music Honors Recital: April 21
- KSU Orchestra: April 24

KANSAS STATE
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