Dear Friends:

The WMU School of Music is like a good wine—it just keeps getting better with age—and now at 100 years.

It was a year filled with one-of-a-kind experiences for our students. A robust roster of guest artists and ensembles provided a personal resource in the curriculum. Jazz greats John Clayton, Tim Hagans, Alon Yavnai, Jamey Haddad and Edward Simon—composers Pierre Jalbert, Anthony Plog, Kyong Mee Choi, and Dan Trueman—music educator Tim Brophy, vocalist Jan Opalach, and conductor Simon Carrington are just a small sample of the 90 visitors our students are able to access now and in their future careers.

This year music students traveled to many places—choral students attended the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Dallas, Texas; the Advanced Jazz Combo performed at the Next Generation Jazz Festival in Monterey, Calif.; viola students travelled to Russia for the International Music Festival White Nights of St. Petersburg; the University Chorale toured Illinois and Wisconsin; the percussion studio attended the 14th Annual Wula Drum and Dance Retreat in Wurtsboro, N.Y.; members of the trumpet studio performed at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Gold Company performed at the “Choralies” in Vaison-la-Romaine, France.

We look forward to continuing our celebration of the 100th anniversary. We’ve planned a Centennial Festival for September and October along with numerous other special events throughout the year. This celebration is a time to live in the present and express our gratitude to the many people who have made this school an excellent music program.

This publication can only give you a side view of the many achievements produced by our students, faculty and alumni. And, there is never enough praise for the diligent Music staff behind the scenes that support all these activities.

Sincerely,

D A V I D  C O L S O N
DIRECTOR
Winners of the Grand Rapids Bach Festival Young Keyboard Artists Competition were showcased in a performance on Sunday, April 21, at the Grand Rapids Community College Music Center Auditorium.

The Bach Festival Competition Collegiate first place winner is WMU music major William Davidson, a student of Dr. Silvia Roederer, and the Collegiate second-place winner is WMU music major Holly Quist, a student of Professor Lori Sims. The High School first-place winner is Matt Weddon, who will be a freshman in the WMU School of Music beginning fall 2013.

The Grand Rapids Bach Festival was founded as a three-day event in 1997 by notable mezzo-soprano Chelsea Helm of Western Michigan University. Andrea Fleming of Grand Valley State University claimed second place, and Hope College’s Jenna Buck took home third place.

Nearly 200 people turned out Sunday evening, April 14, for the free final round concert at the Betty Van Andel Opera Center. The annual event provides an opportunity for the finest student vocalists being trained full-time at Greater Grand Rapids area colleges and universities to compete in a professional competition and to be recognized for excellence by a professional opera company.

Divided into two Divisions, the annual competition provides an opportunity for regional vocal students to compete in a professional atmosphere, while gaining valuable feedback from the judges. Open to regional colleges and universities, the Collegiate Vocal Competition was opened up to students from Kalamazoo based Western Michigan University for the first time this year.

West Michigan’s only professional opera company, Opera Grand Rapids, has been producing world-class grand opera in West Michigan since 1967.

Our fifth anniversary Fall Conference – The Joy of Middle School Band: Kids, Music, Teachers – Brings Sean O’Loughlin to Campus for 5th Anniversary Celebration

by John Lychner

Our fifth anniversary Fall Conference – The Joy of Middle School Band: Kids, Music, Teachers was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. Approximately 160 middle school students and their directors came to the WMU campus to experience clinics, reading sessions, rehearsals, and performances by the Stevensville Lakeshore Middle School 8th Grade Band, the University Concert Band, and the All-Star Middle School Honor Band.

We welcomed Sean O’Loughlin as our guest composer and conductor of the All-Star Middle School Honor Band for this very special celebration of the 5th conference, which included the premiere of a new O’Loughlin work commissioned for the occasion titled Elation. The piece was premiered by both the Sean O’Loughlin All-Star Middle School Honor Band and by the guest ensemble from Stevensville Lakeshore, which was conducted by School of Music alumni Phil (BM’79) and Cindy (BM’78) Huff. The Huffs have maintained a long-standing tradition of excellence in the Stevensville Lakeshore Middle School band program, and the planning committee was happy to honor and showcase their work.

The event culminated with the closing concert during which the University Concert Band performed, followed by the All-Star Middle School Honor Band, and then a grand finale of the combined forces of the All-Star Middle School Honor Band with the University Concert Band. During the grand finale, the middle school honor band members sat side-by-side with University Concert Band members. Parents of the participating students and their directors commented on what a great experience this was for their students.

This event is a collaborative effort that is dependent on the enthusiasm and hard work of middle school band directors from throughout West Michigan, five of whom serve on the planning committee for this event and deserve special recognition: Alan Angeloff from West Ottawa Harbor Lights Middle School, Renee Flynn from Portage Central Middle School, Beth Jankers from Parchment Middle School, Chris Rupp from Eaton Rapids Middle School, and Kenny Wheeler from West Ottawa Harbor Lights Middle School. The University Bands are proud to host this event and appreciate the support of the members of Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity and the WMU School of Music faculty who not only support the University Bands but also came together in a special way to provide instrument clinics for the middle school students who came to campus.

The 6th annual Fall Conference promises to be a special event as the planning committee has initiated some notable changes which will be described on the website and in future mailings. The conference will take place on Monday, October 21, 2013. David Shaffer will be the guest composer, and the Schoolcraft Middle School 8th Grade Band, conducted by Andrea Luegge, will be the guest ensemble. Watch the University Bands website www.wmich.edu/universitybands in August for Fall Conference details and the opening of nominations for the All-Star Honor Band. We look forward to seeing you at this exciting event!
A composition by Andrew Maxbauer, a junior composition student, was selected to be performed at the Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI) 2012 National Student Conference, Oct. 12-14, in Columbus, Ohio. SCI is an independent organization concerned with the fellowship, collaboration, career goals, and objectives of new and contemporary music composers and those interested in topics related to composition. Andrew’s selection for the student conference is notable in that SCI typically does not invite undergraduate composers to present their work. Andrew traveled with a group of School of Music students who performed his composition, Quartet for Soprano, Alto Flute, Violin and Guitar.

David Fisher
Franklin G. Fisk Composition Award

Senior composition student David Fisher was awarded the first Franklin G. Fisk Composition Award for the sixth movement of his string quartet titled Non-Fundamental Forces. Fisher received a performance of the work by members of WMU new music group Birds on a Wire, under the directorship of David Colson, in addition to a $500 award. The work was completed in 2013 while Fisher was studying with Dr. Lisa R. Coons, Western’s newest composition faculty member. Three composers adjudicated this award.

Valeria Jonard Perez
Ron Nelson Composition Award for Restful Music

Recent composition master’s alumna Valeria Jonard received the 2013 Ron Nelson Composition Award for Restful Music. Jonard composed a beautiful and ethereal five-minute orchestra work, El Letargo de las Ballenas (The Whale’s Lethargy). The University Symphony Orchestra premiered the work in February 2013. Jonard was awarded this prize by three adjudicators external to WMU. Additionally, Jonard’s The Broken Harp, for comb and live electronics, was accepted for performance at the 2012 Electronic Music Midwest Festival.

Chamber Music Festival
Awards Scholarships for Performance Excellence

The third annual Chamber Music Festival took place at the School of Music on Feb. 16 with performances at 1 and 5 p.m. The theme for the festival was “Chamber Music in a Dance Style,” and more than 60 students from all performance areas participated in the events. This year’s festival included a competition aspect; students were evaluated for effectiveness in performance quality, repertoire selection, stage presence and maturity of interpretation. The Graduate Wind Quintet (Sandra Fernandez/flute, Lucas Florin/oboe, Ruth Daley/clarinet, Elizabeth Glasser/horn, Whitney Miller/bassoon) received the top award for its performance of The Rite of Spring, arranged for wind quintet by Jonathan Russell. Second place was awarded to Gale Force Winds, a sophomore level wind quintet, and third place was awarded to a violin/clarinet/piano trio.
Every two years, the American Choral Directors Association hosts the country’s largest conference devoted to choral music, conducting, and education. This March, Western Michigan University’s School of Music sent 20 music majors to Dallas, Texas, to attend the 2013 ACDA Conference. WMU students represented one of the largest student chapter delegations at the conference.

The trip, organized by the board of WMU’s student ACDA chapter and supervised by Kimberly Dunn Adams, the chapter’s advisor, took a full year to plan. All 20 students attended the conference on full scholarships, thanks to generous funding from the School of Music’s Student Investment Projects, funded by President John Dunn from the Roy and Beulah Kendall Endowment, and successful grant writing from the chapter’s dedicated leader, John Dunn from the Roy and Beulah Kendall Endowment.

WMU-ACDA students attended over 34 performances given by some of the most distinguished choirs from across the world, including the Tallis Scholars, VocalEssence, and the Westminster College Choir (directed by former WMU Director of Choral Activities Joe Miller). Repertoire presented in these concerts comprised every era of choral music – from chant to new commission premieres – and spanned multiple genres including classical, jazz, pop, and world music.

The trip culminated with a thrilling performance of Benjamin Britten’s War Requiem. First-year student Melanie Walker brought a score in order to fully appreciate the performance. She reminisced, “With my score in hand, I could follow along and understand how the piece was composed, but as I listened to the performers interpreting this monumental work, I felt the sorrow, power and grandeur of the piece.” The concert experience didn’t end there – at the airport the next morning, students discussed the symbolism of the scoring and staging, political implications of Walt Whitman’s text, relevance of the theodicy, and nature of humanity.

In addition to concerts, WMU chapter members attended lectures, literature presentations, and interest sessions on a variety of topics. These included resume building, Mexican choral music, music of the Muslim world, choral improvisation, vocal jazz, gospel music, music of non-Western cultures, and conducting master classes.

In their free time, the students visited exhibition booths and attended professional networking events. Generations of WMU graduates connected with current students. In their free time, the students visited exhibition booths and attended professional networking events. Generations of WMU graduates connected with current students.

The Western Michigan University Trumpet Ensemble, coached by Stephen Jones, recently performed a Trumpet Prelude at the 2013 International Trumpet Guild (ITG) Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June 2013. These ITG conferences often feature selected university trumpet ensembles performing several works as introductions to concerts as well as presentations by featured conference guest artists. Consisting of seven WMU trumpet students (two undergraduate and five graduate) from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri, WMU’s Trumpet Ensemble was selected to perform through a recorded audition process. Members of the ensemble were Bonnie Lee Beebe, Adam Phillips, Adam Stowe, Sean Corbit, Mitchell Curry, Nathaniel Patsy, and Paul Hardaker. Works premiered included Jones’ transcription of Ronald Binge’s Cornet Carillon and a work in three movements by Italian composer Riccardo Giavina, titled Bicinae. While attending the five-day conference, Western’s trumpet students heard concerts and master classes by many of the leading trumpet virtuosos from around the world. This conference gave the students an exceptional opportunity to meet many trumpeters of every age and musical style and to be exposed to the latest technical/performance, pedagogical, and technological innovations in brass playing.
The Western Michigan University Percussion Studio attended the 14th Annual Wula Drum and Dance Retreat held at Camp Lakota, Wurtsboro, N.Y., on Sept. 20–23, 2012. The trip was funded through the WMU College of Fine Arts Student Investment Program. Wula Drum is an important resource for the study of African drum and dance.

WMU percussion students had the opportunity to study with leading drummers from Africa, including M’Bembe Bangoura, who was a leading drummer in the National Ballet Ensemble of Guinea and is one of the foremost ambassadors for Guinean drum and dance. Students participated in dance classes taught by M’Bembe as well as djembe and dhun dhun drum classes. M’Bembe told the students, “If you only play drums you are considered only half a drummer in Africa, because a 100% drummer not only plays the drums but dances.”

All of the WMU percussionists participated in dance classes in addition to drum classes. In the WMU 2012 Fall Percussion Ensemble Concert, dance was included in the performances. Students also participated in balaphone (African xylophone) with Famaro Dioubate from Guinea. One of our students, Anna Martuch, was a “star” in this class, and her parents recently purchased a balaphone for her. Other classes included Afro-Cuban percussion studies with Jose “Apache” Rivera, including an outstanding class on shekere; dhun dhun drums with Moussa Traore from Mali; and djembe and dhun dhun drums with Michael Markus, founder of Wula Drums.

Concentrated study with at least three classes every hour from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. allowed students to totally immerse themselves in the drumming of Guinea and Mali, Africa. WMU is the first university to take a group to this retreat, and people at the retreat commented how refreshing it was to have our students there – our students were great ambassadors for WMU’s School of Music.

The 2012 Fall WMU Percussion Ensemble Concert focused on world drumming – with traditional and contemporary works representing African, Afro-Cuban, Middle-Eastern, and Indonesian percussion styles represented. In January 2013, the ensemble presented a demonstration at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich.

2013 International Young Artist Competition Includes WMU Bassoonist

The 2013 International Double Reed Society Young Artist Competition is pleased to announce the finalists of this year’s competition, and WMU bassoon student Mingyuan Yang is among the three chosen.

The finalists will compete at the IDRS Conference on June 27 at University of Redlands in California. The winner will perform a recital on June 28, 2013, and receive a cash prize of $3,000.

The Members of the YAC judging panel were Jeffrey Lyman, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor; Marion Reinhard, Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet, La Scala Theater Orchestra, formerly of the Berlin Philharmonic; and Rodion Tolmachev, Principal Bassoon, Mariinsky Theatre.

Mingyuan Yang is from China and completed his freshman year at WMU, where he is a student of Wendy Rose.
Music Education faculty and students will once again provide free music enrichment experiences through Saturday Music Labs. These developmentally appropriate music activities are designed by music education master’s teachers, and presented free of charge to children in grades K-5, in Dalton Center on the campus of Western Michigan University from 9 to 11 a.m. Tentative dates for Fall semester are Sept. 21, Oct. 5, and Nov. 2.

Saturday Music Labs not only enrich school-based curricular instruction for children in grades K-5, but also provide opportunities for WMU music education majors to refine their instructional and leadership skills in a community-based environment. Children are involved in a variety of singing, moving and instrument-playing activities built around children’s song literature during each lab – rotating between developmentally appropriate enrichment experiences focused on melodic and rhythmic aspects of the songs.

Parents, grandparents and guardians are welcome to stay and participate in lab experiences or just be a part of the large group closing, where teachers and students recap musical experiences of the day.

The Saturday Music Lab is provided by the music education program in the School of Music as a service to the greater Kalamazoo area community.

Free parking is available in the Miller Auditorium Parking Deck, which is located a short distance from Dalton Center. Facilities on the WMU campus, including Dalton Center, are accessible and barrier-free. Registration is required and available at wmich.edu/music/saturday.

Music Professor Saluted for Teaching Excellence

Music faculty member David Montgomery was selected to receive the College of Fine Arts Dean’s Teaching Award, recognizing him as a “learner-centered, award-winning faculty artist.”

Montgomery, a master faculty specialist in the School of Music and director of the Bronco Marching Band, was nominated by students and participated in a teaching review process. That process required submission of a teaching portfolio with clear evidence of student learning outcomes. Candidates also had to undergo an observation of their teaching and an interview with Dr. Margaret Merrion, dean of the WMU College of Fine Arts.

Every year, about 10 faculty members are nominated by students, alumni, peers and even community members. In Montgomery’s case, community members and directors of high school bands noted his outstanding work with the Bronco Marching Band and other sports bands, including hockey and basketball.

Montgomery came to WMU in 2004 from Kansas State University, where he was working as a graduate teaching assistant and had earned a master’s degree in music education. He received his bachelor’s degree in music education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and his doctoral degree from the University of South Carolina.
The music world is changing quickly and in unpredictable ways. Major arts institutions are grappling with shifting funding and audience resources, performing artists are discovering myriad new tools; audiences are enjoying unprecedented access to performers; and educational institutions are pondering strategies to prepare students for new realities. The Western Michigan University School of Music is focused on engendering an entrepreneurial spirit among the students and faculty who live and thrive in the halls of the Dalton Center. Coupled with support from WMU’s College of Fine Arts, Western Student Association, and the Student Assessment Fee Fund, the School of Music is working hard to provide real-world navigational tools that will guide students and faculty toward the Emerald City.

Entrepreneurialism in the arts is much more than business training for musicians. It is creativity, passion, and story telling. It is resourcefulness, perseverance, and risk-taking. It is collaboration, adaptability, and networking. All of the components of entrepreneurialism are already a part of the ecosystem of the music world, and the continued focus by the school on the meaning and development of entrepreneurialism is creating an incubator for future leaders in this field.

The Second Annual Entrepreneurial Arts Workshop (EAW) took place Feb. 1, 2013, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The workshop focused on defining the challenges facing artists in modern times as well as real-world solutions and techniques to help develop an entrepreneurial approach toward fans, performance, and creative outreach.

The opening presentation, "The Field of Music Futurecast," was presented by event organizer and music faculty member Jacob Cameron, with help from Fifth House Ensemble (5HE) founding member Eric Snoza. Keith Bezant Niblett, Assistant Director of the Executive Development Program at the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University, prepared this presentation but was unable to make the trip due to dangerous weather. Niblett’s PowerPoint presentation about the future of classical music in the United States created the foundation for the entire event, with research delving into the direction of large non-profits, audience preferences, and funding.

The response to Niblett’s research was given through case studies, with a particular focus on the inception and development of the EAW featured performing group Fifth House Ensemble (pictured above). Cameron was again joined by Snoza, and the discussion centered on the rapid growth and creative ideation of the Chicago-based 5HE.

After lunch, Eric Snoza and fellow 5HE founding member Melissa Snoza gave an incredible presentation focused on the nuts and bolts of entrepreneurialism in the music world. 5HE has developed a short workshop that covers all the basics of running a small business, executing not-for-profit or for-profit status, creativity in programming and audience development, and even promotion and marketing with new technologies.

The final presentation, “Resourcing Your Practice,” was given via Skype by Cezanne Charles, Director of Creative Industries at ArtServe Michigan. Charles used creative imagery and examples of living, breathing art to lay the groundwork for self-funding and self-sustaining careers in the arts. ArtServe was a big presence around the College of Fine Arts during the spring semester, and Charles proved to be a masterful presenter and teacher for the students who attended EAW.

In the evening, Fifth House Ensemble performed an inspiring concert from its “In Transit” series, titled “#thisrocks.” During the performance, 5HE told the fictional story of cellist Tanya Ramirez through the letters she wrote to her cello teacher. The interweaving of improvised visuals, letters from the fictional Ramirez, and music by Felix Mendelssohn, Jacob Ter Veldhuis, and David T. Litt, created a unique and compelling narrative that propelled the program through a performance that was greater than its individual components.
Of the many remarkable aspects of the award winning WMU Jazz Studies program, longevity of the faculty seemed one of the most striking.

With the retirement of Trent Kynaston, and the retirement of Steve Zegree last spring, it was clear that we were about to enter WMU Jazz Studies 2.0. As Director of Jazz Studies Tom Knific puts it, “When the Western Jazz Quartet departed for its final tour with current members to Mozambique last May, I was the youngest member of the group. When we returned, it was clear I would be the oldest! Admittedly, it felt like the jazz world at WMU was about to change dramatically. My mantra throughout this extraordinary period has been “change equals opportunity!”

And change it has. The first piece of the puzzle was acquiring saxophonist Andrew Rathbun to replace Trent Kynaston. Rathbun has been a fixture in the NYC scene for many years, as well as having served on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. He has a remarkable track record of recordings, compositions and ensembles under his direction. He defines “prolific” and continues to perform and record in NYC. Rathbun has had several major premieres there this year.

The most important single development in Jazz Studies 2.0 was separating the jazz piano position from the vocal jazz position. This has allowed for greater depth and faculty firepower in the program. The search was on for the piano position, which resulted in the hiring of one of the most heralded young artists who has stunning jazz and classical piano abilities as well as composing abilities. Jeremy Siskind was perfect for the program. His star is rising quickly. Jeremy won the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition after only several weeks in residence at WMU. He continues to tour, record, and publish at a dizzying pace. He also made the grand gesture of placing his Nottingham contest prize – a Kawai grand piano – on the stage of The Union for all to enjoy.

The Western Jazz Quartet (WJQ) has undergone a true transformation with the first change in personnel in 23 years. With the addition of Rathbun and Siskind, it was obvious the direction was going to be new and revitalized. This resulted in engaging Keith Hall, professor of jazz drum set, to become a member of the group. Knific states, “The WJQ performed its first concert together only 10 days after our initial meeting. It was a concert of all original music – and was met with shouts and thunderous applause from our students and faculty. It was at that point that our students knew what they truly had to look forward to. We had staked our claim! The WJQ has already recorded a new CD of music we composed for the occasion, just 3 months after first meeting. The hallmark of the group – creativity, passionate performances, and infectious spontaneous interaction – continues, albeit with a sense of being on some powerful new steroid!”

The vocal jazz program, one of the most visible of the School of Music, also began a time of transition. Duane Davis agreed to take on the Gold Company program for the year along with his duties as the vocal jazz studio professor. Combined with Michael Wheaton directing GC II, this allowed for great stability and world-class teaching, and high-level performances we have come to expect. It is a credit to the depth of this program that the vast majority of candidates considered for this post were alumni of the WMU Jazz Studies and Gold Company programs. These same alumni continue to hold positions at many of the most important vocal jazz programs throughout the country. And so it is with great pride that we have announced Greg Jasperse as the new director of the vocal jazz program at WMU. Jasperse (BM ’93) brings a world of experience to us. He has been in demand in the LA studio scene for years, performing for major film scores, the Academy Awards, etc. As an educator, Jasperse appears throughout the nation constantly as guest artist and clinician for collegiate and high school festivals and competitions. He has extensive publications for vocal ensembles. His works are heard regularly at concerts, festivals, and competitions worldwide. Jasperse sings with the barrier-breaking vocal quartet Vertical Voices, which by chance was booked for the 34th Annual Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival. This proved a timely homecoming.

WMU Jazz Studies also welcomes two remarkable internationally regarded visiting artists in residence. Edward Simon began in the fall of 2012 and has already become an indispensable member of the faculty. As pianist/composer of the SFJAZZ Collective, and many other groundbreaking ensembles, Simon brings an exciting perspective with his unique world music sensibilities and exquisite artistry. We also welcome our first-ever vocal jazz visiting artist in residence, as singer/songwriter Peter Eldridge begins inspiring our students and faculty in fall 2013. As a member of New York Voices, Eldridge has been wowing audiences worldwide for over 25 years. He is also a brilliant solo artist and songwriter. As an educator, he has chaired the vocal jazz program at Manhattan School of Music, where he has taught for 30 years. The potential of his residency is limitless.

Tom Knific adds, “We believe we have re-created ourselves to be one of the unique and leading programs for the 21st century. Given our history and successes, we had no other option!”
Christopher Biggs’ multimedia project
Biodiversity was created with the
support of the A & D Issa Music and Dance Award. The work consists
of 11 sections of music organized into
three movements, each of which
culminates with a section related to a
specific type of biodiversity. The work
is scored for flute, cello, piano, two
percussionists, and two computers.
As the work evolves, the focus shifts
from representations of human actions
that negatively impact biodiversity
to actions that positively affect
biodiversity. The work was premiered
by WMU’s new music group, Birds on
a Wire, with David Colson conducting
in February 2013.

The work was created with a variety
of software. The live computer
interaction occurs in Max/MSP/Jitter
and Processing. Biggs programmed
applications with this software to
1) create video in real time both
abstract from and based on actions
of the instrumentalists, 2) process the
sound from the instruments in real
time, and 3) trigger pre-rendered
audio and video files.

Biggs worked with David Colson and
student performers to record the work
in March. Biggs will complete a DVD
of the audio recording combined
with the videos by July 2013. Biggs
will pursue additional performances
of the work, submit the recording in
applications for grants and awards,
and upload each section of the work
to his website.

This work represents a culmination
of Biggs’ aesthetic direction and
technical growth over the past four
years. The integral combination
of digital audiovisual media with
instruments in real time on a large
scale was possible only because of
the equipment purchased with money
from the A & D Issa Music and Dance
Award. The award also afforded Biggs
the time to learn and develop new
software, rehearse with the ensemble,
and fund the recording.
MUSIC, MIND, AND MEDICINE
Conference Examines Creativity and Consciousness

As part of the 100th anniversary celebration for the School of Music, Professor of Music Therapy Ed Roth will host a symposium on Oct. 9 and 10, 2013, titled “Music, Mind, and Medicine: Creativity and Consciousness in Clinical Care” (MMM:CCC). The symposium will present and examine the current state of artistic, scientific, and clinical thinking around the use of music in therapy, music, and education. MMM:CCC will create an exciting intersection among School of Music alumni, current students and faculty, and international leaders in music, science, and medicine. Similar meetings have used what has become a somewhat common practice, combining world-class musicians, scientists, and clinicians to foster interesting interaction between art, science, and healthcare communities. Uniquely for the MMM:CCC experience, we have assembled a group of artist-scholars, all of whom are scientists or healthcare providers as well as highly accomplished musicians in their own right.

WMU’s Brain Research and Interdisciplinary Neurosciences (BRAIN) Lab, directed by Roth, will play a central role in the conference, as several of its current and future projects are collaborative undertakings with symposium panelists. Panelists will present the most contemporary thinking and cutting-edge research in the neuroscience of music and emphasize the unique social and emotional characteristics of musical improvisation. Attendees will actively participate in symposium events, including presentations, discussions with the panel, experiential learning, and the development of the most important questions to pursue in future research. Musical interludes will invigorate the scholarly presentations, and an evening concert will feature Grammy-nominated and MacArthur Fellowship, aka “Genius Grant”, winner Regina Carter and the Regina Carter Quartet, with a reception to follow.

In addition to Ms. Carter, other conference panelists will include:

Dr. Komal Chemali

Founding Director of the Sentara Neuromuscular and Autonomic Programs; Founding Director of the Sentara Music and Medicine Center (Norfolk, Va.)

Dr. John Iversen

Associate Project Scientist at University of California, San Diego: Institute for Neural Computation; Director of the SIVPHONY project at University of California, San Diego; Founder of the Japanese drumming group San Diego Taiko

Dr. Petr Janata

Associate Professor of Psychology, University of California, Davis; Core Faculty Member: Center for Mind and Brain at the University of California, Davis

Prof. Roberto Justice

Clinical music therapist and lecturer at Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti)

Dr. Edward Roth

Professor of Music Therapy, Fellow – Academy of Neurologic Music Therapists; Co-founder and Director of WMU’s BRAIN Lab

Dr. Edward Sarath

Professor of Music; Department in Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation (University of Michigan); Director of Program in Creativity and Consciousness Studies (University of Michigan); President of the International Society for Improvised Music

Similar to other anniversary events, MMM:CCC will incorporate current faculty and students as well as several School of Music alumni, including Xavier Davis (1993, piano) with the Regina Carter Quartet; Keith Hall (1993, drums) with the Western Jazz Quartet, Roberta Justice (1998, Music Therapy), conference panelist; and Ed Roth (1992, Music Therapy, on faculty since 2000) conference panelist and facilitator.

Fostering collaboration among an international audience, WMU students and faculty, and a world-renowned panel, MMM:CCC will enthusiastically pursue WMU’s vision of being learner centered, discovery driven, and globally engaged.

The conference will conclude with a collaborative celebratory taiko drumming experience led by local percussionist and WMU alumna Carolyn Koebel (1997, Music Therapy; Percussion) and MMM:CCC panelist John Iversen.

For more information and to register for the conference, point your browser to: www.wmich.edu/brain/conference2013
Paul Clifton, a senior horn performance major, traveled in November to Germany for an audition of the Berlin Philharmonic’s Orchestra Academy. Along with about 30 other international hornists, he played for the orchestra’s horn section to gain acceptance into a two-year study program. While nobody was selected from that audition, Paul cites this experience as a catalyst for growth.

“The challenge of traveling and preparing by myself, adjusting to a hugely new environment very quickly and doing it all with the expectation of performing perfectly for those people has been very fruitful. Attempting to keep the same habits on a stage higher than any I had been on before has been very helpful in expanding my comfort level in performance, as well as knowing within myself that I can trust my reactions – music aside – while simply being in a new place and around different people.”

Clifton has been selected as one of five students worldwide to participate in the 2013 International Horn Society Premier Soloist Competition. He was chosen by recorded audition to participate in the final round of the competition, which will take place July 31 at the University of Memphis in Tennessee at the society’s upcoming conference. The other students selected to perform are from the University of Southern California and Interlochen Arts Academy.
Martha Councell-Vargas traveled to Colombia and Argentina in July 2013 for concerts, master classes, and a presentation. Councell-Vargas performed with her duo pianist Richard Steinbach at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and the Universidad Pedagógica de Colombia (Bogotá), and at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture in Funza, Colombia. From Bogotá, she traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she performed at the College Music Society International Convention.

With the vision of creating a South American tour that went beyond the concert hall, Councell-Vargas used “Somos Americanos,” a program featuring music of North, Central, and South America to connect herself to audiences and fostered a spirit of universal Americanism. She was able to work closely with Colombian music students, and she engaged the international music-academic community in a dialogue about American culture by presenting the program in a lecture recital at the College Music Society’s International Conference. A CD of “Somos Americanos” is scheduled for release in summer of 2013 on the Blue Griffin label.

Western Michigan University music professor Jeremy Siskind took top honors in a prestigious international jazz piano competition, bringing home a new grand piano.

Siskind, assistant professor of music, won the 2012 Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition. He was one of 12 semi-finalists and bested pianists from Great Britain, Poland, Austria, and the Republic of Mauritius, as well as five from the United States.

Siskind is the second pianist with WMU ties to win the competition. Logan Thomas, a graduate of the WMU School of Music, won the competition in 2010.

“Music isn’t a competitive sport,” Siskind says. “I look at these competitions as great ways for high-level musicians to meet and share ideas and inspiration. However, it’s always nice to have what you do validated through this kind of process.”

The competition took place October 6–7 in Nottingham, England. The competition’s grand prize is a Kawai grand piano valued at $25,000. Siskind beat out three other finalists: Jerry Leonide, of the Republic of Mauritius, and Angelo DiLoreto and Nick Hetko of the United States.
Scott Cowan, Associate Professor of Music, was given a Fulbright Scholar Award from the United Kingdom as a Distinguished Professor of American Studies at the University of Ulster in Londonderry, Ireland, January through July 2013. He was on the faculty at the University of Ulster teaching jazz arranging, jazz theory, jazz history and independent studies with both undergrad/graduate students of jazz performance. Cowan worked on the jazz curriculum at Ulster to advance its graduate program, which is greatly assisting the Ulster faculty with expanding its jazz program and reaching more graduate students.

Cowan performed throughout Ireland as a freelance trumpeter, including the world-renowned Londonderry jazz festival in May. During his residency in Ireland he wrote a book titled Harmonic Tension and Release. This groundbreaking work provides extensive research on the harmonic contributions of jazz greats Kenny Dorham, Woody Shaw, Randy Brecker, and Tom Harrell. The book investigates tension release (consonance/dissonance) from a psychophysiological as well as jazz historical point of view. Through this work he hopes to introduce quantifiable strategies on how to introduce calculated harmonic dissonance into a jazz student’s improvisational portfolio.

He worked with his students at Ulster University on concepts that his book investigates. The students were research vehicles for what he sees as extremely important jazz concepts that are currently misunderstood in academia. One Ph.D. student is incorporating Dr. Cowan’s concepts, principles, and strategies into his doctoral thesis.

Cowan’s most recent album, Jack’s Place, was featured on BBC jazz radio along with a 60-minute interview. He performed frequently in Belfast with famed BBC personality Linley Hamilton and his group, The Linley Hamilton Sextet.

Christopher Biggs was one of two composers from the United States invited to present his work at the 2012 Visiones Sonoras Festival in Morelia, México, in October. Abderrahman Anzaldúa (MM ’12) premiered Biggs’ composition Greed for violin and audiovisual media in front of a standing-room-only crowd at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México’s Morelia Campus. Biggs was also invited to participate in a roundtable discussion related to a new degree in music technology at UNAM’s main campus.

Sound Visions is a festival that has established itself as the premier event of its kind in Mexico and one of the leading online marketplaces. This is a space to create links between artists and students, creating new audiences and encouraging the creation of new works that integrate the use of new technologies. Through the meeting of composers, a series of conferences and workshops and commissions to Mexican and foreign artists, the festival aims to help foster the creation of sound that incorporates the use of new technologies in a way that promotes reflection on the implications of using these tools in the creative processes of the artists of today.
Trombone Student Captures INTERNATIONAL WIN IN PARIS

A Western Michigan University graduating senior has topped off his high-profile collegiate career by capturing first place in an international trombone soloist competition.

Eric Bowman of Portage, Mich., won the Frank Smith Trombone Solo Competition, the International Trombone Festival’s classical trombone division for students to age 25. Competitors in the division are mostly master’s and doctoral students. Bowman won the top slot over finalists from the Eastman School of Music and the University of New Mexico, and in addition to winning the title in his division, Bowman was awarded a trombone valued in excess of $4,000.

In Paris, Bowman was in the rare position of having earned a finalist slot in two solo division classes at the festival. He also competed in the J. Johnson Jazz Trombone Competition for jazz players up to age 25, but was edged out in that contest by a student from the Paris Conservatory. Bowman is believed to be the only student ever to qualify as a finalist in both the classical and jazz competitions during the same year.

A music and jazz studies major, Bowman is no stranger to winning prestigious competitions. In 2009, he won the Carl Fontana Jazz Trombone Competition at the University of New Mexico, and in addition to winning the title in his division, Bowman won the top slot over finalists from the Eastman School of Music and Grand China. Bowman was awarded a trombone valued in excess of $4,000.

Bowman was represented by three trombone students as finalists in four of the trombone divisions. The students were accompanied by Dr. Steve Wolfinbarger, WMU music students, were also in Paris competing as finalists in separate competitions. In 2009, he won the National Jazz Solo Competition held in Washington, D.C.

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A spring visiting artist series celebrated international diversity and featured four visiting artists at Western Michigan University. Each artist presented a free public talk or performance while on campus. The series was organized by the College of Fine Arts.

On Wednesday through Friday, March 20-22, Kyong-Wha Chung, an American pianist, presented a free series of three public recitals titled “An American Requiem.” Chung performed the world premiere of a set of 10 variations on an American civil war (1861-65) and concluded with a selection of new works for piano and electronics.

A composer, organist, painter and visual artist, Choi is an associate professor of music composition at Northwestern University, where she teaches composition and electro-acoustic music. She also writes for chamber, electro-acoustic, interactive, and multimedia work. Her creations elegantly integrate acoustic and electronic sources into beautiful features and dynamic moments.

Choi has received several prestigious awards, including the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, Robert Rauschenberg Prize, and Azusa Clerical Award. Her compositions, which have been recognized around the world, have incorporated algorithmic compositional devices, geometric charts, visual art, and analogies of musical elements with non-musical concepts. Her works as a pianist and composer have led her to experiment with integrating sound and image into single works of art.

In September and October, the music program will present a Centennial Festival, a series of concerts, with a special performance by orchestras, the University Symphony Orchestra and Grand China featuring Richard Danielpour’s An American Requiem (See below for more details.)

Danielpour emerged in the 1990s as one of a handful of composers, alongside Adams, Roux, Schwanert, Corigliano, and Kernis, who embraced hybridity and innovative explorations of the previous century — the familiar sound of the traditional orchestra as well as the avant-garde. Danielpour is known for composing for a wide range of instruments, from the traditional orchestra to Broadway scores, movies, and television. In the late 1990s, Danielpour became one of the only three composers (the others being Sven-Axel Mollgard and Copland) to be signed to a major recording label. He has performed with various orchestras and has a string of commissions and residencies. He has also served as president of the American Composers Alliance.

In the fall semester, the School of Music will collaborate with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra to offer a semester-long program to introduce Orpheus’ dynamic process of shared leadership, collective creativity, and autonomy to the College of Fine Arts students, as well as the greater campus community.

The residency will culminate in two performances: one featuring WMU student chamber music ensembles coached by Orpheus musicians on Dec. 3, the second presented by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with clarinetist Martin Fröst on Dec. 6, 2013.

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Two alumni present FEATURED RECITALS

Western Michigan University alumnus Scott Buck returned to the Kalamazoo Center for the Arts on April 22 to present “A Centennial Focus: WMU Distinguished Alumni Performances.” Assistant Professor of Music, Voice, and Opera Program Director Susan Conroy performed a recital and interacted with current WMU students and faculty. She was joined by “Wee Surf” composer and violist Mark Zeller and pianist Gabriel Dazard. The program was a Centennial celebration of music and performance at WMU.

Students in Ministry AFTER 20 YEARS

From Western Michigan University School of Music alumni served as The Gospel Kids for an evening of old favorites and new favorites on Jan. 31 in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The quartet performed original compositions from their upcoming (in) published album, “Beautiful.”

Tom Knific and drummer Keith Hall. Reid earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance from the School of Music at the University of Illinois. Drummer Nelson Oliva holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance from WMU as well. The recording was performed on Jan. 20 in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

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Western Michigan University alumnus Dennis DeSantis performed on April 3 in the Dalton Center Recital Hall as part of an artist residency. DeSantis earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance from the School of Music at WMU as well. The performance was held on April 3 in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

University Symphony Orchestra PREMIERES ALUMNA COMPOSITION

The University Symphony Orchestra performed the world premiere of the 2013 Western Michigan University Senior Competition winner’s composition titled “Mastermind” by the Western Michigan University School of Music alumnus Cori Somers. The composition was performed on April 20 as part of the University Symphony’s Masterworks program.

Jazz Alumni Present CD RELEASE CONCERT

The Jazz Alumni Present CD Release concert featured a variety of ensembles, including The Chicago Jazz Orchestra, The Western Michigan University School of Jazz, and The Western Michigan University School of Music alumni reunion ensemble. The concert was held on April 20 in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

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White Nights and Primierie
Russia
Conservatory

In February we’ve planned the world premiere of a new work bringing the University Chorale and Birds On A Wire by Jonathan Greene and composer Paul Lansky. Recently retired professor of music composition at Princeton University and an authority on his music is known as a pioneer in the development of computer music. 

Richard Danielpour, renowned composer Paul Lansky. Lansky is recently

A primary component of this fellowship was the film aspect. "This film puts the scope of learning outside just the viola studio," said Fedotov. "He will be able to present our findings on the School of Music’s Convocation Series, at St. Petersburg Conservatory’s Week of the Masterworks.”

This cultural study program was the first of multiple events that will

The program was the product of a College of Fine Arts Faculty Fellowship awarded to Fedotov in October for student-centered collaborative research. The program was designed to raise students’ musical and cultural understanding. The itinerary included not only concerts, but visits to major Russian museums and monuments in both Moscow and St. Petersburg. 

WMU’s existing relationship with the St. Petersburg Conservatory allowed students the chance to experience firsthand conservatory-level studies at one of the oldest and most prestigious institutions in the world. WMU students attended several additional activities that will help them develop their musical disciplines for both solo and chamber music performance and perform for a masterclass with Conservatory faculty. Fedotov also gave a masterclass for St. Petersburg Conservatory students.

The trip also coincided with St. Petersburg’s “Stars of the White Nights,” featuring one of the largest celebrations of the Russian arts. Elite performers from around the world appear, and the extended twilight of the Russian summer created a surreal ambiance. Both Moscow and St. Petersburg are home to some of the most important cultural landmarks in Russia and all of Europe. The studio made visits to the Hermitage, Pushkin, the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, the Museum Conservatory, the Red Square, the Mariinsky Theatre, and several other important sites.

In October, the studio plans to attend the 7th annual UT Viola Celebration at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

While in Russia, the studio produced a documentary film, in collaboration with Alcolea, highlighting their experiences.

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In October 2012, Assistant Professor of Composition Lisa Renée Coons participated in a weeklong residency at the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) in New York City with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). The week was devoted to rehearsing MESH, Coons’ new evening-length dance work for the ensemble, which was created in collaboration with choreographers Zack Winokur and Michelle Mola of The Troupe. It was the second half of a residency that began at the BAC in February 2012.

Coons proposed the multidisciplinary piece to the ensemble in 2011 and was commissioned to write MESH as part of the International Contemporary Ensemble’s ICElab program. The work innovatively incorporates directions for musicians and dancers into the master score — choreography and music are fully integrated and interdependent. It blurs the boundaries between the disciplines by expanding the idiomatic gestures of the musicians playing their instruments into choreographic motives and allowing the dancers to participate in the creation of sound. The two “incubation residencies” at the BAC allowed Coons to work collaboratively with both ICE and The Troupe on movement, non-traditional notation, structured improvisations, and building a shared language for the performers.

MESH is a study of vulnerability and connection; it explores the individual’s struggle for identity and the isolation that often results. This evening-length work is composed for flute, bassoon, tuba, percussion, guitar, violin, voice, and five dancers. Coons helped design the choreography and collaborated with Winokur and Mola on the piece for over a year. The piece relies on points of alignment and a system of cross-cueing between dancers and musicians; this allows structured improvisations and malleable gestures to be coordinated between all of the performers and creates more dynamic relationships within the work.

Though both performances of the premiere weekend were sold out several weeks in advance, Hurricane Sandy struck the day before the residency began, and the premiere was postponed. A workshop performance of some of the movements took place November 3 in the BAC and allowed for a partial viewing of the piece. Movement I was performed by members of ICE at WMU as part of the “Live and Interactive Series” in the School of Music in March 2013. The rescheduled world premiere of the full piece will take place as part of the interdisciplinary Mount Tremper Arts Summer Festival in June 2013. This work was made possible through support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Creative Capital Multi-Arts Production (MAP) Fund, and the Baryshnikov Arts Center.
Western Michigan University’s celebrated School of Music will hit its 100th anniversary this year as the first university in Michigan to be named an All-Steinway School.

With 123 of the world-renowned pianos gracing the stages, classrooms and practice studios of the school, University officials are already seeing the $2 million investment by private donors have an impact, as applicants to its highly selective music programs respond positively to the quality commitment the Steinway designation demonstrates.

“Prospective students note the School of Music’s Steinway piano inventory, and the new instruments make quite an impression, especially on those visiting the school for the first time,” says Dr. David J. Colson, director of the School of Music. “The new pianos have become a point of pride for many of our current students. They are especially appreciative to have instruments on which to practice and perform that inspire their growth as musicians.”

WMU joins just over 150 top international music schools to have earned the All-Steinway designation, which requires that 90 percent of the school’s pianos be designed by Steinway & Sons. The world’s All-Steinway Schools include The Juilliard School, Yale University, The Cleveland Institute of Music, Curtis Institute of Music, Carnegie Mellon University, and the China Conservatory of Music. WMU is the first university in Michigan to earn the designation.

As an All-Steinway School, WMU is entitled to use the Steinway logo on its website and in recruitment materials and can use Steinway Hall in New York City for an annual event for alumni.

Fundraising to be an All-Steinway program began five years ago, according to Dr. Margaret Merrion, dean of WMU’s College of Fine Arts, and the first pianos acquired through the campaign arrived in late 2008. The timeline for completion was driven by the School of Music’s 100th anniversary celebration, which is now in progress and will culminate with a series of special fall concerts, including an Oct. 13 piano concert that will honor the All-Steinway designation.

“Our mission is to give our students a first-rate education, and that requires first-class instruments, high-quality learning opportunities and outstanding faculty-artists,” says Merrion. “The All-Steinway program was a major objective in our strategic map for distinction.”

The funding to achieve the designation came from a variety of donors, Merrion says, but two local foundations—the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation—were among early significant donors and provided impetus for the fundraising campaign.
Hana Beoglovic (BM’11) has been admitted into the DMA program in trombone at the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music. Hana is completing her master’s degree at Yale University as a student of Scott Hartman.

Joanna Bozin (BM’11) was hired to teach general music at El Sol Elementary School in Kalamazoo.

Josephine (Isaac) Cappeletti (BM’12) is the new Director of Orchestras at Lincoln Park Academy in Fort Pierce, Fla., where she was selected as New Teacher of the Year for the 2012-13 school year from among the 15 new teachers in the district. To read more, please visit the website Josephine created for the LPA orchestra program at www.mrscapeletti.weebly.com.

Evan Conroy (BM’09) has been accepted into the prestigious summer Lucerne Festival, which was founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez. Evan will receive travel and expenses to participate in the event which includes roughly 130 highly gifted musicians from all over the world, each of whom will study contemporary scores and modern masterpieces. The teaching staff is made up of members of Ensemble InterContemporain, one of the most celebrated ensembles in the field of modern music.

Geraldine Boyer Cussac (MM’06) is co-founder and sole editor of the site theatremusicdirectors.org. She relocated to New York City, where she is administrator of all the music directors groups on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Benjie Daneman (BM’07) released a short, four-song album which features WMU faculty members Jeremy Siskind (piano) and Andrew Rathbun (saxophone), as well as his vocalist wife, Ashley Daneman. To learn more and stream the music, please visit www.benjadaneman.bandcamp.com.


Lauren Figura (BM’11) was hired to be the band director at Colon (Mich.) Community Schools and was featured in an article in the Surgeis Journal which highlighted her efforts to re-establish the band program after a 3-year hiatus.

Saxophonist Randy Gist (BM’09) has performed on the popular television show Glee, making his first appearance in November 2012. He also played with Phillip Phillips, the 11th American Idol winner, in April, and one of Randy’s electronic tracks was used in the trailer for the Evil Dead movie.

Charlie Goodman (BM’10) has been accepted into the doctoral program for tuba at the University of Michigan.

K. Dawn (Davis) Grapes (BM’88) received a Ph.D. in historical musicology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in December 2012. She has been a Special Assistant Professor of music history at Colorado State University since 2010.

Melissa Hirokawa (MM’06), MT-BC, had an article, “The Body-Mind-Spirit Connection: Meeting the Holistic Needs of Seniors Through Music Therapy,” published in The Senior Housing Directory, and her photo appeared on the magazine’s cover. She also was asked to present at a vascular education conference as one of the featured speakers.

Nayanna Holley’s (BM’07) song Faith was the pick of the month for August 2012 on www.soultracks.com.

Keith Horn (BM’99) has released his newest song, Rad Bromance, on iTunes.

Ben Horton (BM’00) was named Band Director of the Year for Kern County Community Schools and was featured in an article in the Surgeis Journal which highlighted his efforts to re-establish the band program after a 3-year hiatus.

Laurel Jarski (MM’05) presented the world premiere of her piece The Funky Blues for Cello Quartet in February at Eastern Michigan University’s biennial event, Music Now! Fest 2013. Jarski is a former composition student of Anthony Iannaccone, who was the featured composer for the week-long festival’s series of performances.

Greg Jasperse (BM’93) sang with Adele on the television broadcast of the Academy Awards in February.

Angelica Kalasz (BM’12) is the new Junior High School orchestra director of Fairfax County Schools in Springfield, Va.

Ryan Kasperski (BM’10) is in his third year of teaching band and choir for grades 6–12 at River Valley Middle and High Schools in Three Oaks, Mich.
SAMMY KESTENHOLTZ (BM’02) has become a Vic Firth Drum Stick artist and was part of the group of Ramo Artists to shoot a new product video. He recorded with the Manhattan Trumpet rhythm section for Alan Paul’s CD and recorded a new vocal jazz instructional CD with fellow WMU music alumnus MATT FALKER (BM’95). Sammy presented a drum set clinic for educators at the Yamaha Sounds of Summer program and facilitated a 900 person drum circle event for UpBeat Drum Circles at Chapman University. He also shot a TV pilot with Rex Metrewieer’s band and did session work with Grammy® winner Ted Perlman.

TRACY J. KIEL (MM’07) was appointed an Instructor of Neurology at Eastern Virginia Medical School in December.

Horn player CECILIA KOZLOWSKI (BM’08) won the audition to be in the 10-member horn section of the highly prestigious “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band.

AARON KRZUKI (BM’05) released a new album with his band Education Reform, The Push-Up is Missing, and appeared on the release of Michael Reis’ new album, Hidden Meaning.

JOAN KULESZA (BM’77) has been appointed Interim Chair of the Opera Department at the Peabody Conservatory. In summer 2012, she was on the faculty of Music Theater Bavaria and held master classes at AEDO-Wielen. She conducted the American premiere of Anna Sokolovitch’s SVADBA in February 2013 and was the Music Director at the Canadian Operatic Arts Academy in May 2013. She will return to Music Theater Bavaria in the summer of 2013 to serve as Head of Opera.

HIU YING ANGEL LEUNG (MM’11) presented her paper, “The Reentry Experiences of International Music Therapy Professionals from the Asia Pacific Rim Area,” at the 2012 Midwest Conference on Asian Therapy Professionals from the Asia Pacific Rim Area,” “The Reentry Experiences of International Music Therapy Professionals from the Asia Pacific Rim Area,” “Therapy Professionals from the Asia Pacific Rim Area,” a paper, “The Reentry Experiences of International Music Therapy Professionals from the Asia Pacific Rim Area,” at the 2012 Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs in September.

JOHN McFARLAND (BM’05, MM’07) was hired as Assistant Director of Bands and Director of Percussion at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio.

ANDY MITCHELL (BM’06) is the new doctoral graduate assistant in trombone at the University of Michigan.

DAN MURPHY (BA’04) relocated to State College, Pa., in October after being hired as the new Director for Student Orientation and Transition Programs at Penn State University.

NATE MUSCH (MM’12) has been named one of three finalists in the International Trombone Association’s Alto Trombone Solo Competition. Nate will be traveling to Columbus, Georgia to compete against two other finalists from the Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles and the Janacek Academy of Music and Performance Arts Brno in the Czech Republic.

DAN MYERS (BM’99) was the subject of a feature article in the American Way, the magazine for American Airlines.

JULIE NEMIRE (MM’87) presented a lecture about American composer Conlon Nancarrow for WMU students in observance of the centennial of the composer’s birth. Nemire also contributed two papers for an online symposium created in honor of the Nancarrow centennial.

MANNNA NICHOLS (BM’07) performed the role of Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady at the Shaw Festival last season. She reprised the role at the Arena Theatre in Washington, D.C., the major regional theatre in the area, this past fall.

ANDREW OOM (BA’07) is a freelance trumpet player in the indie music scene of Brooklyn, N.Y. He has recorded three albums and toured internationally with DeLeon (www.iovedeleon.com), recorded a self-titled album and toured with Rana Santacruz (www.ranasantacruz.com) as well as an album for WMU students and a quintet she coached was selected to perform. "Maron," on IFC.

MONICA (WASHINGTON) PADULA (BM’08, MM’10) completed an internship at Mount Hope Church in Lansing, Mich., during which she led the band for the church’s Christmas production, A Little Boy’s Prayer.

CLAUDIA SCHMITZ (MM’09) has accepted a new teaching position at Escuela Campo Alegre in Caracas, Venezuela. She will be the 6–12 grade band director. Her program includes a 6th grade band, two middle school bands, and a high school band, and she will also teach IB music theory.

JED SCOTT (BA’01) was appointed to the ACDA-Michigan State Board as R&S Chair for Vocal Jazz and Show Choir. He remains busy as a commissioned arranger and has developed a master class on arranging for high school students called “Left Brained Arranging.” He was also commissioned by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) to compose the 2012 sight reading excerpts used for Choral Festival across Michigan.

MANDY (MIKITA) SCOTT (BM’00) directed her sophomore Women’s Chorus in a performance at the Michigan Music Conference in January. The ensemble, which received high praise for its performance, premiered a commissioned work, We Are the Music Makers, by WMU music alumnus JEFFREY COBB (BM’90). Also at the conference, Mandy was awarded the Carolyn Leep Scholarship by MSVMA and was elected by her peers to conduct the 2014 High School SSA At State Honors Choir. In May, she brought an ensemble to the 2012 Michigan Youth Arts Festival for the third consecutive year when a quintet she coached was selected to perform.

ERIN M. SMITH (BM’07) will make her debut as Adina in L’Elisir d’Amore with Opera Providence in Rhode Island in August 2013. Erin has been an active performer of opera and oratorio in New England since 2010 and has performed with companies such as Cape Cod Opera, Opera del West, MetroWest Opera, The Boston New Music Initiative, The Falmouth Chorale, Boston Opera Collaborative and Boston Metro Opera. Putting her Music Ed degree to use, Erin is also a Teaching Artist with The Metropolitan Opera Guild’s Urban Voices program.

ROBERT VANCE III (BM’00, MM’05) accepted the position of Associate Director of Choral Studies and Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music.

AMY (SMITH) VANDERLAAN (BA’91) is Director of Band and Orchestra at Walden Green Montessori and Music Teacher Assistant in the Grand Haven (Mich.) Area Public Schools. She has been a member of the Holland Symphony Orchestra for 20 years and a Holland Area Youth Orchestra Mentor for three years.

JIM VAN ELZENGA (BM’12) was hired as Director of Orchestras at Novi (Mich.) High School.

LARA WAGNER (MM’09) accepted the position of Band and Choir Director at the Tongue River Middle School and High School in Ranchester, Wy.

An article by ERIN E. WEGENER (BM’07, MM’09), MT’BC, CBIS, faculty member/alumnus EDWARD A. ROTH (BM’93), MT’BC, and Jerolyn J. Hunter, PT, MS, was published in the December issue of the Advance, the journal for occupational therapy practitioners. The article is titled “Music Therapy and TBI: Understanding the Effects of Rhythmic Auditory Stimulation on Subjects’ Gait.”

BEN WERNE (BM’12) is the Director of Bands for Edinburgh High School and Middle School in Edinburgh, Ind. He also plays as substitute clarinetist with the Evansville Philharmonic.

LY WILDER (MM’96) was appointed an adjunct lecturer in jazz voice in the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in December.

BRAD WRIGHT (BA’96) received a $6,600 grant from the Fenton Community Foundation to update/refurbish sound equipment for the vocal jazz/swing choir, the Ambassadors, at Fenton High School where he teaches.

MARK ZIEGLER (BM’02) has established roots in New York City, where he performs regularly with other WMU alumni, and is touring Europe with West Side Story and its 26-piece orchestra until spring of 2014. He maintains a webpage and photolog of his tours at www.markvanziegler.me.
In the recent Bach Festival of Kalamazoo Young Artist Vocal Competition, collegiate division, mezzo-soprano JILLIAN NEWTON (a senior from Gables) was the second place winner and baritone BRIAN SCHNEIDER (a senior from Manitowoc, Wis.) was first honorable mention. Over 50 students from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana sang in the competition.

Five undergraduate students were recognized in the Opera Grand Rapids Collegiate Competition. ALICIA RENNEY (a junior from Eaton Rapids, Mich.) won Division 2. In Division 1, finalists were CHELSEA HILLY (a senior from West Bloomfield, Mich.), EMA KATROVAS (a senior from Prague, Czech Republic), SARAH MIRULSKI (a senior from Traverse City, Mich.) and BRIAN SCHNEIDER (a senior from Manitowoc, Wis.). All sang on a gala concert in April, during which the Division 1 finalists competed for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes.

JILLIAN NEWTON (a senior from Muskegon, Mich.), KYLE KARK (a senior from Norton Shores, Mich.), STEPHANIE GREGOIRE (a senior from Escanaba, Mich.) and BRENDAN CLOSS (a graduate student from Muskegon, Mich.) were selected to conduct in the ACDA-Michigan Fall Conference Conducting Masterclass with guest clinicians Vijay Singh and Sandra Snow.

Flutists represented the WMU flute studio internationally in the summer of 2012. Flute JORY KING (a senior from Westland, Mich.) was invited to participate in a flute workshop at Le Domaine Forget International Academy of Music and Dance, where he studied with world-renowned flutists Emmanuel Pahud and Susan Hoeppner. YAMILE REYES VALLEJO (a sophomore from Quito, Ecuador) participated in the Festival Internacional de Flautistas en el Centro del Mundo (International Flute Festival in the Center of the World) in her hometown, where she also played for flutists from around the world.

PAUL CLIFTON (a senior from Howell, Mich.) won the second horn position with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

In March, piano performance major WILLIAM DAVIDSON (a junior from Rockford, Mich.) won first place in the collegiate level Grand Rapids Bach Festival Young Keyboard Artists Competition. This competition is biennial and winners performed on a concert in April at the Grand Rapids Community College Music Center.

MACKENZIE HARRIS (a senior from Portage) was accepted to and will attend the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music for graduate school.

Trombone performance major LUKE MARLOWE (a sophomore from Byron Center, Mich.) was recognized as honorable mention selection in the International Trombone Association’s Larry Wiehe Trombone Solo Competition.

DANNY MUI (a senior from Macomb, Mich.) was selected as a participant for three national clarinet/chamber music programs, including the Chamber Music for Winds program at the Madeline Island Music Camp in Minnesota; the Clarinet Performance Workshop at Indiana University; and a select group of seven students working with Daniel Gilbert (University of Michigan) in Cleveland. He was also named the 2013 Yamaha Young Performing Artist Clarinet Winner.

As a winner of this national competition, Danny will be invited to attend an all-expense paid weekend awards ceremony at the Music for All™ Summer Symposium, receive a once in a lifetime performance opportunity in front of thousands, national press coverage, receive a recording and photos of the live performance, and participate in workshops designed to launch a professional music career. Winners also will enjoy many of the privileges of a Yamaha artist, including services and communication with Yamaha’s Artist Relations department.

THE UNIVERSITY CHORALE, directed by Kimberly Dunn Adams, provided the soundtrack for — and was featured in — Western Michigan University’s new television commercial. The spot is airing on network stations throughout Michigan and nationally on ESPN.

CARLY WELLS (a senior from Commerce Township, Mich.) has been hired as a staff music therapist by Seasons Hospice in Detroit.

Three students were named winners of the School of Music’s annual Concerto Competition. They are soprano D. GILES SIMMER (a graduate student from Detroit), violinist YOUNG GU (a senior from Beijing, China, and a winner in the 2010 Concerto Competition) and bassoonist MINGYUAN YANG (a freshman from Zhengzhou, China). They were featured in performance with the University Symphony Orchestra on the 54th annual Concerto Concert on April 14.
On Saturday, April 6, the Western Michigan University Advanced Jazz Combo travelled to Southern California to perform as special guests at the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival. Directed by Dr. Andrew Rathbun, a new faculty member at Western this year, the group played all original selections and arrangements written by its members. The ensemble is comprised of some of the School of Music’s most promising jazz musicians.

The group made quite a splash at the festival, as they performed their entire set from memory, and most of the music they performed was in odd and mixed meters. The pieces they performed are highly developed, and are extremely sophisticated. One audience member’s comments included: “I’ve got to look this program up. These guys are amazing! Where is Kalamazoo?” (Most of the ensembles that perform at the festival are from the Southern California area.) The ensemble is playing well beyond a “student” level, and could rival many ensembles that perform at the festival are from the Southern California area.

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Since arriving at WMU, KIMBERLY DUNN ADAMS has guest conducted at the Lakeland Fine Arts Festival, Forest Hills Choral Gala, and Bach Festival High School Choral Festival. She has given workshops with high school choirs from Schoolcraft, Muskegon, Mattawan, Edwardsburg, Kalamazoo, and White Lake, Mich. In spring of 2012, Adams was an invited adjudicator and clinician at the MSWMA State Choral Festival and the 33rd annual Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival. In January 2013, Adams and Ken Prewitt gave a very well-attended presentation at the Michigan Music Conference called “What You See is What You Get: Vocal Technique in the Choral Rehearsal.” Adams gave performances with the University Chorale in Midland and Lansing in the spring of 2012 and in Chicago, Ill., and Waukesha, Wis., in the spring of 2013. The University Chorale also performed educational concerts at Jenison, East Kentwood, Forest Hills, Haslett, St. Charles North, Niles North, Arrowhead, and Portage Central High Schools.

CHRISTOPHER BIGGS’ music was presented at three juried conferences, including the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States’ Annual Conference. He was a guest artist at the 2012 Visiones Sonoras Festival in Morelia, Mexico. Biggs premiered three new compositions, including Biodiversity, a 40-minute multimedia, collaborative work that was created with the support of the A & D Issa Music and Dance Faculty Award. Biggs also completed a fixed media work that was released by Irritable Hedgehog Records.

School of Music director DAVID COLSON had performances of his Quiet Places for viola and vibraphone performed at the Kennedy Center, University of Denver, and Colorado College Music Festival. The WMU Western Winds premiered his A Long Road for wind ensemble. The work was commissioned by the WMU College of Fine Arts as a gift to the Fetzer Institute. WMU faculty ensembles-in-residence also performed his works A Flying Circus and Mandalas. He conducted three performances of the WMU new music ensemble, Birds on a Wire, presenting new works by composers John Griffin and Kyong Mee Choi. In February, Colson led the world premiere and recording of Christopher Biggs’ Biodiversity, also with Birds on a Wire. In March, Colson conducted two performances of Stravinsky’s L’histoire du soldat in a School of Music/Departments of Theatre and Dance collaboration with Fontana Chamber Arts utilizing the Kurt Vonnegut libretto. He also completed a recording (as percussionist) of Pierre Jalbert’s Klang for two pianos and percussion in August 2012 for Bridge Records, Inc.

JOHN GRIFFIN was a finalist for the American Prize in Music – Choral Division for his piece When Music Sounds, commissioned by the Kalamazoo Singers. He was second-place winner in the New Music Everywhere “MuseFest” competition in Madison, Wis. and had two pieces performed there in May 2012. His flute and piano piece, Shards, was selected for inclusion in the Society of Composers, Inc. Journal of Music Scores, and it was performed at the SCI National Conference at The Ohio State University in February 2013. His Dance Suite for Viola and Piano was performed as part of the College Music Society International Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in June 2013. The performance featured Griffin on piano and WMU alumna Kasia Bugaj (WMU’05) on viola.

In celebration of the National Flute Association’s 40th anniversary, MARTHA COUNCELL-VARGAS was invited to perform at the NFA Convention in Las Vegas (August 2012) in a concert of works commissioned by the NFA. She performed Shulamit Ran’s East Wind and Sebastian Currier’s Time and Time Again.
Adjunct drum set professor KEITH HALL (www.KeithHallMusic.com) held the 6th annual Keith Hall Summer Drum Intensive at WMU in June 2012, which continues to grow and included 42 drummers from around the region. He presented clinics to many schools around the state and continues to present his Jazz Is Our Music program to area schools. He is also speaking to businesses, including Stryker Corporation and the Southwest Michigan First Catalyst Conference, about how to apply elements of jazz in business and leadership. He enjoyed tours with TRI-FI and Curtis Stigers in Europe and is a member of the Western Jazz Quartet, with whom he just recorded for an upcoming release. He continues to present Jazz Currents on WMUK on the last Friday of the month and his book, *Jazz Drums Now!* Vol. 2, the follow up to *Vol. 1.*, will be out in the spring of 2013.

TOM KNIFIC gave residencies at the Copenhagen Opera House and the International Festival of Music in Mozambique. The Western Jazz Quartet premiered his African inspired work, with rave response. Tom presented master classes and concerts at the University of Miami, University of California Irvine, and Ohio State University and lead WMU Jazz Orchestra in concerts with John Clayton, the New York Voices, Alan Yavniel, and Tim Hagans. Tom recorded a new CD of the Jazz Orchestra. Tom and RENATA ARTMAN KNIFIC produced the StringJazz World Music Explosion with Yavniel and Jamie Haddad, and Tom conducted premières of two string orchestra works written for the occasion. Tom organized the Distinguished Alumni residencies for singer/pianist Kate Reid and Mas Que Nada, including the release of MQN’s CD which he produced. Tom produced a showcase for jazz studies at the legendary Jazz Showcase in Chicago, featuring the WJQ, Jazz Octet, and Jazz Orchestra. Tom was featured at the International Society of Bassists’ conference, with the WJQ, and had the U.S. premiere of his Sextet for Double Basses with an all-star ensemble. The WJQ performed at the Jazz Educators Network national convention in Atlanta and recorded a new CD of all original music.

THE MERLING TRIO (Renata Artman Knific, violin; Bruce Uchimura, cello; Susan Wiersma Uchimura, piano) added four new states (Virginia, Maryland, New Mexico, Pennsylvania) to its list, bringing the total to 41 in their quest to perform in all 50 states. The trio performed, recruited, and gave master classes additionally in Alabama, Arkansas, Michigan, Florida, Arizona, Ohio, New York, and West Virginia. Highlights included a 6-concerts-in-6-days tour of New Mexico and Arizona, where the trio enjoyed a reunion with faculty emeritus Trent Kynaston and his wife, Pam. The trio’s Florida schedule for this season included concerts on prestigious series in Fort Myers, Pensacola, Saint Augustine, Deland and West Palm Beach, with master classes at Stetson University and Florida Atlantic University. Additional master classes included Troy University, Arkansas State University, Eastern New Mexico University, Northern Arizona University, and Ohio State University.

CARL RATNER, baritone, prepared seven WMU School of Music voice students and recent alumni to participate with him in the May 2012 production of Tchaikovsky’s opera Eugene Onegin — sung in Russian — which was a collaboration between Opera Naples, the Naples Philharmonic and Arts Naples World Festival in Florida. The students augmented the Opera Naples chorus while Ratner performed the role of the Captain. The next month, he opened Washington, D.C.’s Shostakovich Festival with a performance of that composer’s songs at the Russian Cultural Centre, attended by international diplomats and leaders of many of Washington’s major arts organizations. In July, Ratner taught and performed at the Corsi Internazionali di Musica in Perugia, Italy. His 2012–13 winter schedule included performances of Bach’s St. John Passion, Handel’s Messiah, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, a recital of Russian songs, and the world premiere of Robert Patterson’s song-cycle, *American Pierrot: A Langston Hughes Songbook.*

SUSAN WIERMSA UCHIMURA gave solo and chamber music master classes at Troy State University, Arkansas State University, Eastern Michigan University, Florida Atlantic University, and Southern New Mexico University. In August, Uchimura served as one of three international collaborative pianists at the Carlos Prieto International Cello Competition in Morelia, Mexico. Uchimura guest conducted the Mid-Michigan Band and Orchestra Day at the Flint Institute of Music, Walled Lake Orchestra String Day, and the WMU orchestra at the 2012 Michigan Youth Arts Festival. The orchestra accompanied the winners of the MYAF Concerto Competition. He also conducted the Ann Arbor Huron High School Orchestra in the world premiere of Misha Zupko’s multi-disciplined work, *Strong with Glory.* Uchimura continues to give orchestra clinics at numerous Michigan school orchestra programs. He also had an active performing season with the Merling Trio with concerts throughout the U.S.

STEVE WOLFINBERGER was selected to be Western Michigan University’s nominee for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year. The award recognizes outstanding faculty contributions to undergraduate instruction, and each of Michigan’s 15 public universities is allowed one nomination.

SCOTT COWAN (left) with Linley Hamilton at the BBC Radio studios in Northern Ireland. Cowan spent the 2012–13 academic year in Belfast, Ireland on a Fulbright Grant teaching, performing, and doing research. He was featured on BBC Radio twice, performing and being interviewed. One of the sessions can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpR06zIL3w.

SILVIA ROEGERER performed in Washington, D.C. and Long Island, N.Y. with the Verdevi Trio. Residencies which included performances, composers’ workshops and coachings took place at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania and at the University of Missouri in Columbia. In summer 2013, her trio will be performing in Oklahoma as well as Michigan festivals in Leelanau and Blue Lake. The former Duo Amabile (Roegerer with husband Leslie Tang) will begin its revival as the Duo Furoisa with a performance in Croatia in July 2013.

BRUCE UCHIMURA performed cello recitals and taught at the Sleepy Hollow Chamber Music Festival, Aria Summer Music Academy, Cello: An American Experience, and the Calvin College String Summit. He also gave master classes at the Hart School of Music, Interlochen Arts Academy, and the Conservatorio de las Rosas in Morelia, Mexico. Uchimura guest conducted the Mid-Michigan Band and Orchestra Day at the Flint Institute of Music, Walled Lake Orchestra String Day, and the WMU orchestra at the 2012 Michigan Youth Arts Festival. The orchestra accompanied the winners of the MYAF Concerto Competition. He also conducted the Ann Arbor Huron High School Orchestra in the world premiere of Misha Zupko’s multi-disciplined work, *Strong with Glory.* Uchimura continues to give orchestra clinics at numerous Michigan school orchestra programs. He also had an active performing season with the Merling Trio with concerts throughout the U.S.

BRADLEY WONG was named the State Chairperson for the International Clarinet Association. He continues to perform with the Western Wind Quintet — including recording its first CD, the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck; and the Southwest Michigan Symphony, as principal clarinet. He is a Yamaha performing artist.
Welcome
New Faculty and Staff

JULIE NEMIRE is an alumna, former part-time instructor, and no stranger to the School of Music. She transitions from serving as Director of Awards and Special Projects in WMU’s Graduate College, as well as production editor for the Medieval Institute Publications area. Nemire chairs the University Cultural Events Committee and serves as president of the WMU Administrative Professional Association. She earned a bachelor’s degree in music (voice) at Coe College, a master’s degree in music (composition) at Western Michigan University, and a doctoral degree in music (music theory) at Michigan State University. Nemire has been a church musician, organist, and choir director for more than 30 years.

MIRA SHIFRIN is an alumna with a Bachelor of Music degree in flute performance from WMU and a Master of Music degree in flute performance from Ithaca College in New York. She worked as a staff member at other collegiate institutions, including a role as Music Advisor for the Cornell University Big Red Marching Band. Locally, she maintains an active private flute studio, and worked for the Crescendo Academy, Marshall Music Co., and the Community Music School in Bedford. She was also the On-Site Coordinator for the 2012 Gilmore International Piano Festival in Kalamazoo. Mira joined the School of Music office staff first as an interim employee in October and became full time staff in March.

JEREMY SISKIND stands poised to play a major role in the future of piano music. Siskind has performed both jazz and classical music at Carnegie Hall, has twice been a finalist to be named the American Pianist Association’s Cole Porter Fellow, and has been a guest on Marian McPartland’s Piano Jazz. He recently won first prize at the 2012 Nottingham International Piano Competition in England, competing against 11 other pianists from around the world. As a composer, Siskind has received recognition in the form of ASCAP’s Young Jazz Composers Award and DownBeat Magazine’s Student Music Award. Siskind is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music with a master’s from Columbia University. In addition to performing and composing, Siskind is a regular contributor to Clavier Companion magazine, and in March 2013, his new book, The Magic of Standards, which includes eight arrangements of jazz and popular songs, was published by Hal Leonard.

ALEXANDER M. CANNON is an ethnomusicologist specializing in the music of contemporary southern Vietnam and the music of Asia. He holds a B.A. in music and mathematical economics from Pomona College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Cannon was appointed to a tenure track position as assistant professor at WMU in August 2012. As a recipient of the Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship, Cannon conducted 15 months of extensive fieldwork research in Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta in 2008 and 2009; he returns every year to continue this research. In 2011, he completed his doctoral dissertation on charismatic musicianship in Vietnam titled “Making Tradition Charismatic: Music, Memory, and Alliance in Contemporary Southern Vietnam.” Cannon has presented his research at national and international conferences in the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and China.

JACOB CAMERON joined the WMU faculty in fall 2012 as professor of tuba and euphonium. He was formerly an instructor at Grand Valley State University and an artist and faculty member at the Bay View Music Festival. He has held teaching positions at Wright State University, East Carolina University, Calvin College, and Cornerstone University. As a soloist, Cameron was the Artist division winner of the 1996 Leonid Falcone International Tuba Competition. He has performed with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops, Grand Rapids Symphony, and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Cameron received his Master of Music in tuba performance from Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, and his Bachelor of Music in tuba performance from Michigan State University, where he is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree.
SCOTT BOERMA will be the new Director of Bands at WMU starting in August 2013. He joins the faculty in the School of Music after an already distinguished career as Associate Director of Bands at the University of Michigan, Director of Bands at Eastern Michigan University, and in the Michigan public schools at Lamphere and Novi high schools. Boerma earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting at Michigan State University, his Master of Music Education at the University of Michigan, and his Bachelor of Music Education at Western Michigan University. An active composer, Boerma’s concert band works have been performed by many outstanding ensembles, including “The President’s Own” Marine Band, the Dallas Wind Symphony, and the University of North Texas Wind Symphony, to name a few amongst many more. Boerma’s works have been featured in the popular series, “Teaching Music Through Performance in Band.”

GREG JASPERSE is a freelance musician based in Los Angeles, Calif. His compositions and arrangements are performed the world over, from the White House to the Sydney Opera House and beyond. Jasperse spends much of the year working as an educator and clinician at festivals and music camps throughout the U.S. and Canada, including the BGSU New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp. He has conducted All-State Vocal Jazz Choirs in 9 states and British Columbia. His voice has been featured in television, radio and film, including the scores to films including Star Trek, National Treasure 2, Salt, and Wolfman. His solo piano CDs, Tournesol and Crossings, are available at iTunes along with Happy Madison, the most recent release from the professional a cappella group Sixth Wave. Jasperse will join the WMU faculty as assistant professor of vocal jazz and leader of the legendary Gold Company ensemble starting fall 2013.

JEREMY RYAN MOSSMAN attained his Bachelor of Music from the University of Miami’s theatre conservatory in musical theatre performance and his Master of Music from Oakland University in Rochester, Mich. in vocal pedagogy. He also has trained at the prestigious Music Theatre Bavaria in Oberaudorf, Germany. Mossman will join the WMU faculty as faculty specialist of music theatre voice performance in fall 2013. Previously, he was vocal coach at Oakland University and an instructor in the Estill Voice Training System and has led master classes and taught at conferences in Detroit, Boston, New York, and Windsor, Ontario. Mossman has performed across North America and Europe, on land and at sea, in shows including Singin’ in the Rain, Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Drowsy Chaperone, and 42nd Street. He also is an active musical director.