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Nota Bene

A publication of the Northern Kentucky University Department of Music

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

WINTER/SPRING 2011

Keyboard Program Reaches Out

Spring is bringing exciting opportunities for five keyboard students. Under the direction and guidance of Dr. Diana Belland, Professor of Piano, the students will become certified in Kindermusik, a music and movement program geared toward young children.

In order to fund the program, Belland and her students were awarded a Collaborative Faculty-Student Project Grant by the College of Arts & Sciences. In order to subsidize the cost of materials, three of Belland's students—Mitchell Schnure, Natasha Pence, and Rachel Royer—also applied for and were awarded the Student Undergraduate Research & Creativity Award (SURCA).

Schnure, Pence, and Royer are joined by Zachary Mills and Ann Coleman in the program. According to Belland, "These five students will get online Kindermusik training, and in the fall, they will be teaching at four or five preschools."

The chance for the students to move into teaching is a major step in their education. They will work closely with Rick Hulefeld, Executive Director of Children, Inc. as part of the Growing Sound program.

"The gentleman who runs [Growing Sound] is absolutely excellent, but he's not able to teach classes at every preschool that Children, Inc. runs," Belland explains. "When I approached Rick, he was so excited that here NKU is offering to do

this free. The grant pays all the expenses, and now puts classes in five of these preschools in which the kids would have otherwise had no music."

Belland emphasizes that not only do the grant and Kindermusik certification allow music to be brought to young children, but that it also provides the NKU students with beneficial and rewarding real-world training.

"It fulfills one of NKU's missions, which is community outreach and service. It also enables our students to get training and job experience in an area that they will actually teach in their careers as piano teachers. It's quite a viable career."

Check out the piano pedagogy program at pianopedagogy.nku.edu/.



Photo courtesy of Jen Davis

Symphonic Winds Wows in Ohio

On January 28th, the Symphonic Winds participated in the 2011 Ohio Music Education Association and the National Association for Music Education's conference at the Millenium Hotel in Cincinnati. The group was invited after submitting a recording of their work and impressing the listening committee.

Because the conference is an Ohio event, it is a bit out of the norm for a Kentucky group to be invited. "I had called and asked someone if they would look at our recording," explains Dr. Brant Karrick, Director of Bands at NKU. "The audience for this concert is all music educators, so it's a very

educated and discriminating audience. They're not going to invite you if you don't represent musical excellence."

The students were pleased to be joined by NKU's Chamber Choir, as well, for a performance of "Homeward Bound". "It was especially nice to have our chorus join us on that piece," Karrick says. "They went above and beyond."

Karrick is extremely proud of the dedication and excellent performance of the students. "Any good performance is not an accident. It's the result of hard work, and our students really did everything that was asked of them."

Perlove Teams Up with YouTube



Photo
courtesy of
Dennis
Guillaume

Nina Perlove, NKU flute professor, is taking her talents to YouTube. More specifically, she's joined the staff of the YouTube Symphony as an integral creative force after having previously participated as a musician in the Google and YouTube sponsored competition.

"Two years ago, they had this big competition, and I was one of the winners," Perlove explains. "The winners were invited to New York City for about five days where we had rehearsals and we played a concert at Carnegie Hall."

This year, the YouTube Symphony lives again, and Perlove is involved in a very different capacity working in Artist Development. "This year they contacted me and said, 'Would you like to actually work on the project?'," she says. Her role has included promotion and publicity, as well as developing instructional videos to help contestants in putting together their audition videos.

Perlove also sat on a panel with other YouTube Symphony organizers and fielded questions from the press about how the program has helped to change the way musicians reach their audiences. "It used to be that if you didn't have the support of a gatekeeper (agency, major symphony, etc.), it was very hard for people to know who you were. That has all changed, because now you can post something on YouTube, and you can reach a global audience."

Winners of this year's contest have another thing to be excited about: their concert is being held in Australia. Perlove will be there, as well. "It's all going to be at the Sydney Opera House, which is exciting," Perlove says.

Check it out at youtube.com/symphony!

"Now you can post something on YouTube, and you can reach a global audience."

Guitar Program Stretches its Neck

Guitar professor Andrew Winner lights up when he talks about his program's growth during his three years at NKU. "I have a lot of majors right now, and more minors than ever," he says. "When I arrived here, there were four majors, and no minors."

Today, the auditioned Guitar Ensemble alone has seven students, with more expressing interest all the time. Additionally, the program offers Group Guitar, which is open to any student with an interest in playing in a non-auditioned ensemble.

One of the most important things the program offers the students is as much practical experience as possible. Winner emphasizes that it is not an easy path making a career out of guitar, and students should be prepared to explore all of their options.

"A lot of kids who want to come to school to study guitar don't read music, and that's a primary way

that musicians communicate," he says. Guitar majors must learn to read guitar music in order to participate in Guitar Ensemble, which is a requirement for their degree.

Also with regards to real-world preparation, Winner explains that "The most marketable type of music degree is in education. Usually students who are performance majors understand that they're going on to graduate school."

Winner believes that it's important to be frank, but not to discourage talent. "I do work with them on doing more than just the requirements for their degree. We talk a lot about applied theory and how to arrange for the guitar."

Students interested in the program can find out more at nku.edu/~music/programs/guitar, or check out one of the Guitar Ensemble's concert events!



Photo courtesy of
Andrew Winner

Senior Adam Nurre Joins the Big Leagues

Senior percussion student Adam Nurre is being recognized for his talent in a very special way. After winning an NKU solo competition in spring 2010, Nurre was invited to play *Concerto for Marimba and Wind Ensemble* with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) for two performances this semester.

Scott Lang, Director of Percussion studies at NKU, explains the importance of such an opportunity. "This is similar to a college pitcher being called to a major league team as a guest starting pitcher," he says. "This is an extremely rare opportunity."

Nurre is thrilled to have the chance to work side by side with some of the most talented musicians in the field. "It's kind of



Photo courtesy of Jon Braude

equal parts awesome and terrifying," Nurre says with a laugh. "It's a big deal to play with musicians of that caliber."

Nurre also finds himself in the position of being a colleague to his percussion teacher, Dick Jensen, who's been with the CSO for almost forty years. Ultimately, Nurre wants to teach, and working directly with his own mentor is a unique chance to see what his career could look like.

"I definitely don't want to be that story where 'the band director can't play anymore because he devotes all his time to teaching,' so whatever I have to do to keep playing on top of teaching, I'll do that, as well."

Adam will graduate in fall of 2011.

NKU Celebrates Trumpet Day

"I'd like for

NKU to be

known as

really strong in

education in

brass."

On April 2, NKU will celebrate its first annual Trumpet Day, an all-day event focused on celebrating trumpet music.

Second year professor Raquel Rodriguez is spearheading the event. "I was brought in to help with recruitment, so I thought this would be a great vehicle to get students to come up and see our campus," she explains.

Trumpet Day will include

a morning warm-up session and reading session, in which regional high school students will have the opportunity to play their horns alongside NKU faculty and two guest artists, Pat Harbison of Indiana University and Alexa Yates.

For \$15 (or \$20, day of), students will enjoy the morning sessions, as well as an afternoon filled with performances and a masterclass. "The students will also

have vendors, at which they can buy goodies. Trumpet players love our goodies," Rodriguez says with a laugh. And they get a free t-shirt!

Rodriguez has a head full of big plans for the trumpet program. "I'd like for NKU to be known as really strong in education in brass."

For more information, see nkutrumpet.com/home!

Preparatory Department on the Move

Four groups from the Preparatory Department will be taking their acts on the road this semester.

In May, 36 students from the Youth Ensemble and Children's Concert Choir will travel to Washington D.C. for the National Memorial Day Choral Festival.

"Washington is a really hot spot to be on Memorial Day,"

says Director of the Music Preparatory Department Toni Sheffer. "We're doing all patriotic music. Some of it is exclusive arrangements from Craig Jessup."

Also hitting the road this semester are the Youth Sinfonia and the Youth Orchestra for a competition festival in Chicago in March.

"The Sinfonia has done so

well, they've won first place every time they've gone," Sheffer says.

The orchestras will compete separately at Orchestra Hall, a major privilege for any musician, let alone a young student. "It's like Music Hall is to Cincinnati, but it's more like a Carnegie Hall in Chicago," Sheffer says.

Auditions for the Northern Kentucky Children's

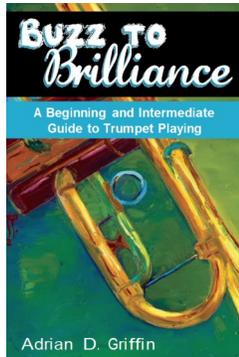
Ensemble and Youth Ensemble will be held on Tuesday, May 10th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Please contact Toni Sheffer at (859) 572-7737 or by email at sheffer@nku.edu for more information or to schedule an appointment.

And check out all of our Preparatory Department programs at musicprep.nku.edu/.

Alumni News

Adrian Dwight Griffin, Class of 1998

Adrian is currently principal trumpet with the Filarmonica de Jalisco located in Guadalajara, Mexico. In addition to appearing with a host of symphonies and conventions, Adrian has published numerous articles with the *Instrumentalist Magazine* and is an ongoing contributor. In 2010, Adrian finished his greatest literary accomplishment: a book entitled *Buzz to Brilliance*, published by Oxford University Press.



Photos provided by Adrian Griffin



More Exciting News!

- } Guitar professor Andrew Winner has released his second album, *Spanish Pastorale*. The album is available on Amazon, iTunes, CDBaby, and most other popular music sites. Winner's first album, *An Italian Serenade*, is also available.
- } On January 12, Russian piano legend Professor Dmitry Paperno joined Sergei Polusmiak and Dr. Diana Belland in presenting a lecture and master class in Greaves Concert Hall. The Department of Music continues to expose its students to masters of their craft on a regular basis.
- } On Saturday, February 5, NKU hosted the winter Piano Pedagogy Conference, which was sponsored by Northern Kentucky Music Teachers Association, Ohio Music Teachers Association, and the NKU Department of Music.
- } On Wednesday, February 23, members of the prestigious National Symphony Orchestra conducted master classes in Greaves Concert Hall.

We want to hear from you!



Photo courtesy of Dr. Kurt Sander

Alumni of the Northern Kentucky University Department of Music are part of the program for life, and we want to hear from you. Tell us about your life after graduation, whether it's a musical or career accomplishment, a big move, or any other exciting news.

Keep us in the loop!

How can you submit your information? Easy!

By email: davisj21@nku.edu

By phone: (859) 572-6399

By mail: Music Office

Northern Kentucky University
Fine Arts 253
Nunn Drive
Highland Heights, KY 41099

**Schedule of Events
March**

- } March 1—From Swing to Rhythm & Blues 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 2—And Evening of Sacred Music... 7:30 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 3—The Great Outdoors! 7:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 4—A Parisian Musical Soiree 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 13—Sergei Polusmiak/Rhine Quartet 7:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 15—A Night of Saxophone... 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 17—“The Criminal Brass” 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 18-20—New Music Festival NewNowNorse Northern Kentucky University
- } March 22—Trumpet Studio Recital 5:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 22—Faculty Jazz 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 24—NKU Concert Band 7:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 25—Two’s Company: An Evening... 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 26—4th Annual Blues Festival 7:00 p.m. Madison Theatre (Covington)
- } March 26—NKU Guitar Ensemble 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } March 29—Chamber Jazz 8:00 p.m. Location

MARCH 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Schedule of Events
April**

- } April 1-3—Opera Workshop 8:00 p.m. Fri/Sat; 3:00 p.m. Sun Greaves Concert Hall
- } April 2—NKU Trumpet Day 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. NKU Fine Arts Center
- } April 4—NKU Percussion Ensemble 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } April 5—Annual Choral All-Sing 7:00 p.m. St. Agnes Church
- } April 12—Swing to Rhythm & Blues 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } April 18—Student Chamber Music Recital 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } April 19—NKU Jazz Night 7:00 p.m. @The Blue Wisp
- } April 19—“Welcome to Vienna” 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } April 21—Music of the World 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } April 25—NKU Steel Band Concert 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } April 28—Spring Choral Concert 8:00 p.m. Greaves Concert Hall
- } April 29-30—2nd Annual NKU Jazz Festival 8:00 p.m. Fri/Sat Greaves Concert Hall

APRIL 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Nota Bene



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Northern Kentucky University's Department of Music offers a full range of performance and education opportunities to music majors. Our graduates pursue successful careers as professional performers, college and university faculty, public school music teachers, private studio instructors and in allied fields within the music industry. Our students have been accepted for graduate study at such renowned institutions as the Juilliard School, Indiana University–Bloomington, The San Francisco Conservatory of Music, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Iowa State University, the Eastman School of Music, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

This issue of *Nota Bene* was designed and edited by Jen Davis

Talent Connection

Photo
 courtesy
 of Dr.
 Kurt
 Sander



Nota Bene is a great way for students and alumni to advertise their talents and services—for free! Send us your information (instrument, band or ensemble name, contact information, etc.) and we'll feature it here in the Talent Connection!

Each issue of *Nota Bene* reaches over 1000 people. You never know where your next gig will come from!