

FANFARE

THE JOYCE AND HENRY SCHWOB SCHOOL OF MUSIC / SUMMER 2024
Columbus State University / Columbus, Georgia

GUSTO!

Schwob School's
annual fundraiser
was an evening
to remember!



FANFARE

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ON THE COVER:
*Harpists LeAndra Douds and
Katie Damon perform in the
entrance hall at GUSTO!*

ON THE INSIDE COVER:
*The Schwob Philharmonic in
performance in Legacy Hall.*



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Joseph Golden Day!

Mayor Skip Henderson proclaimed April 28 as Joseph Golden Day in Columbus in recognition of his retirement after nearly 40 years of service to the Schwob School of Music. The mayor read the proclamation from the stage before the Schwob Philharmonic concert and presented it to the professor. The concert itself was presented in honor of Golden. A reception followed the concert. (See page 38.)

Congratulations on your retirement!
Your Schwob School Family



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Are you a fan of *Fanfare*? How could you not be? This issue should hit your mailbox or your inbox with summer fully underway, at least in these parts. It's the ideal time to take a few minutes and reflect on what is truly special about the Schwob School; that is, about the people who work and study here, as well as those who love and support the school and those who proudly call it their alma mater. On every single page you'll meet interesting people doing creative things. If the news of the day finds you distracted, distressed, or dismayed, just spend a few minutes with *Fanfare* and let it be your restorative tonic.



Whether you've studied music a little or a lot, that term "tonic" is sure to have popped up. In tonal music it means "home," the note from which a musical adventure is launched, and to which one will (most likely) return at the end. Scales typically begin their ascent from tonic and conclude by reaching tonic an octave higher. A launching point and a goal: it's an appropriate metaphor for where we find ourselves this summer. We're preparing to welcome about 85 new students to campus as music majors who are launching their studies this fall, even as we say goodbye to the Class of '24, with their goal—their diploma—literally in hand. But the diploma is another launching pad, and we look forward to all the news they will soon share as alumni, some in the pages of future issues of *Fanfare*.

I hope you'll stay in touch with us, and with them, by means of our e-mail list. If you're not sure if you're subscribed, send me an email (harris_scott@columbusstate.edu) and I'll double check to be sure you're on the list. Or email and let me know what articles you'd like to see in future issues of *Fanfare*—after all, the fare is for the fans!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "E. Scott Harris".

Scott Harris
Barbara C. and Clifford J. Swift III Director
The Joyce and Henry Schwob School of Music



The Horn Choir, under the direction of Dr. Anne-Marie Cherry, kicked off the GUSTO! dinner with a performance of Over the Rainbow.

Signature events celebrate Schwob School of Music

– by CSU Office of Strategic Communication + Marketing and Marion Scott

Schwob School donors, students and faculty kicked off 2024 in style at two of the school's annual signature events – GUSTO! and Kaleidoscope.

GUSTO! showcases talent, funds scholarships

The celebrations began with a sold-out crowd of 400 at GUSTO!, held Saturday, February 3, at the Bibb Mill Event Center in Columbus. The annual event funds scholarships for CSU's music students.

In addition to an evening of dining and fellowship, guests enjoyed performances by students, faculty and alumni performing in a variety of ensembles. The program featured the Schwob Singers, the 35-student choral ensemble under the direction of Dr. David Hahn, the Paul S. and Jean R. Amos Distinguished Chair in Music. The Schwob Philharmonic, the 104-student orchestra under the direction of Professor Paul Hostetter, the Ethel Foley Distinguished Chair in Orchestral Activities, also performed. Ensembles of horns, harps, and xylophones, and the Aestas String Quartet rounded out the musical presentations of the evening.

This year's event also highlighted Schwob School alumni, ranging from



Carrie Beth Wallace '09, Schwob alumna with Dr. Jonathan Liss, master of ceremonies

music educators and audio engineers to world-renowned musicians, singers and conductors.

"GUSTO! celebrates and showcases our students' talents and the incredible philanthropy that makes their studies – and their futures – possible," said Scott Harris, the Barbara C. and Clifford J. Swift III Director of the Schwob School of Music. Harris also noted this year's event boasted the highest attendance in the

event's history. Currently, 18 students receive scholarships funded by the annual GUSTO! event. Through GUSTO! and the generosity of many donors, Schwob is able to award more than \$1 million annually in scholarships.

Carrie Beth Wallace '09, is a Schwob alumna who benefited from philanthropic support while a student in the music school. She also has an appreciation for the power of music and the arts. As founder

GUSTO! KALEIDOSCOPE

“GUSTO! celebrates and showcases our students’ talents and the incredible philanthropy that makes their studies – and their futures – possible.”

- Scott Harris, the Barbara C. and Clifford J. Swift III Director of the Schwob School of Music.

and editor-in-chief of “The Columbusite,” with a print and digital readership of 35,000 monthly readers, she covers the community’s arts and culture scene – and frequently champions the efforts and accomplishments of the school’s students and faculty.

“Funding music education and nurturing students’ artistic talents are crucial for fostering creativity, cognitive development and emotional well-being in our community,” Wallace said. “Music education enhances critical thinking, discipline and teamwork – laying a foundation for success in various aspects of life.”

Wallace wears another hat in the Chattahoochee Valley – the city’s first-ever arts liaison to the mayor. Through both

her work on behalf of “The Columbusite” and the Mayor’s Office, she is able to see how the incredible artistic talents found within the school contribute to the city’s cultural enrichment.

“Choosing to invest in arts education initiatives and the students they serve is one of the most important ways to ensure Columbus’ quality of life continues to improve every year,” she said. “Investing in these areas not only empowers individuals to pursue their passions, but also enriches Columbus by fostering a vibrant and culturally aware community for generations to come.”

The school is grateful for the investments made by area businesses whose sponsorships made GUSTO! possible. Columbus Memory Center



Dr. Stuart Rayfield, Columbus State University president

was the presenting event sponsor. Other sponsors included Aflac, the Pezold Family Foundation, Georgia Crown Distributing Co., W.C. Bradley Company, Columbus Speech & Hearing Center, “The Columbusite,” Aramark, Silvan Guitars, Spring Harbor at Green Island and the Uptown Life Group.



(above left) Ashlynn Mularchyk and Daniel Cruz, piccolo players in Stars and Stripes Forever. (above right) Saxophone Studio.



Kaleidoscope – a whirlwind of talent

One definition of “kaleidoscope” is “a constantly changing pattern or sequence of objects or elements.” It aptly describes the musical extravaganza enjoyed by approximately 1,200 people Saturday, March 9 in the Bill Heard Theatre at RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. Aflac, a long-time supporter of the Schwob School of Music, was presenting sponsor for this event.

With approximately 230 student performers, roughly 80 percent of the Schwob faculty involved, collaborative pianists and 25 diverse musical selections performed in 70 minutes, this year’s event was a feast for the senses – and a showcase for the talented students in the music school. Musical selections ranged from a Mozart aria to a rousing rendition of Copland’s “Hoe-down” to a creative piano arrangement of the rock anthem “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

“As has been the case for every year I have attended Kaleidoscope, I was blown away by the talent demonstrated by our students during the event,” said Dr. Stuart Rayfield, president of Columbus State University. “Kaleidoscope is a unique event that creatively showcases our students’ hard work and through them, the quality of our faculty in the Schwob School of Music,” she added. “As

I mentioned during my welcome remarks, I recently attended a Georgia Chamber of Commerce event discussing the future of talent for the state of Georgia. I am confident that the future of talent is at Columbus State University and that was on full display at Kaleidoscope.”

“Kaleidoscope is an amazing opportunity for our community to experience the best musical talent around,” said Rocky Kettering, vice president of University Advancement and executive director of the CSU Foundation. “Our donors can literally see and hear the return on their investment. We are so proud of the Schwob School of Music, and so is our community.”

Professor Paul Hostetter organized this year’s program, although he is quick to point out this was a collaborative effort of dozens of people, including faculty, staff, students and the RiverCenter crew. Organizing an event of this magnitude is nothing new for Hostetter. He’s been involved with Kaleidoscope since he joined the Schwob faculty in 2010. He also planned a similar event when he was on the faculty at Montclair State University in New Jersey from 2004 to 2010.

Although some of the initial planning took place in the fall, Hostetter said he, Dr. Jamie Nix and Dr. David Hahn put in approximately 35-40 hours of intensive

work beginning in January. There was one dress rehearsal in Bill Heard Theatre lasting more than four hours the day before the event.

Musicians and performers seemed to be everywhere during the concert – from the stage to the boxes on the orchestra and mezzanine levels. The biggest challenge for Hostetter and the team was logistics. The first challenge was “just figuring out the Rubik’s cube of students and placement,” Hostetter said. The performance order changed several times during the process, as the team worked out the logistics of moving people and instruments from place to place – in the dark – as quickly and safely as possible.

Hostetter views Kaleidoscope as “another example of Columbus State reaching out in the community to provide something that’s really magical,” citing theatre, art and other positive activities across the university. But he brings the conversation back to the talented students in the music school, and the enthusiastic response of the audience. “You know, it’s really all about the students who are doing this work and the energy you feel from the audience,” he said. “And the roar of the audience at the end as the curtain opens, and they see all the students on stage.” ■



A glimpse of the percussion and horn sections performing in the grand finale.



Dr. David Hahn conducting the Schwob Singers at GUSTO!

Freshman, senior view Kaleidoscope from different perspectives

– by *Marion Scott*



Students in the Schwob School of Music have many opportunities to perform before audiences. Perhaps none is as exciting as Kaleidoscope, the annual showcase of Schwob School talent.

Sam Vaillancourt, a freshman, performed in his first Kaleidoscope this year. The son of Schwob faculty members Dr. Andree Martin, professor of flute and Dr. Paul Vaillancourt, professor of percussion, Sam grew up in Columbus and spent much of his time at the Schwob School. “I’ve basically been around it my whole life,” he said.

Sam picked up the instrument when he was 3 years old, “but I really fell in love with the violin at around the age of 11 and I haven’t looked back since,” he said. The violin performance major studied with Professor Boris Abramov and now studies with Professor Sergiu Schwartz. He also plays the piano and is a composer and arranger, and he arranged two of the selections for this year’s Kaleidoscope.

After many years of attending Kaleidoscope, he saw it from a different perspective as a first-time performer. “It was a really different experience,” Sam said. “Since my parents are on faculty I’ve been to every Kaleidoscope since the age of 4 or 5, so I knew after a while how the show worked.”

But being in the show for the first time made him understand how much is involved in the production. “It’s not a normal production; it’s more than that,” he said. “To be part of it; to perform in four or five ensembles and then having a solo and arranging a few things was more than an honor. I just couldn’t be more grateful,” he added.

“The biggest challenge was making sure that every ensemble and every performer was in the right place at the right time,” he said. “Every piece is restricted to three minutes. So it’s important that every performer is always on their toes; ready to go and ready to perform at all times.”

The “coolest” aspect of Kaleidoscope was performing for an enthusiastic crowd of 1,200 people. Sam also noted his years of being an audience member and meeting performers he admired



Sam Vaillancourt

after the show, and now being one of those performers meeting audience members at the post-concert reception. “It’s incredible and I loved it,” he said.

Sam hopes to be involved in Kaleidoscope for the next three years as he completes his degree, and he looks forward to attending the annual concert for years to come. But he is also focused on making the most of every minute while at Schwob, his “second home” for so many years. “I want to make the most out of every single Kaleidoscope,” he said. “I’m just honored to be a part of it and love to perform in it, so I’m going to absolutely enjoy the next three years.”

While the talented freshman hasn’t made firm plans for the future, he currently plays in the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and may be interested in an orchestral career. He was the concertmaster for the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra and recently performed a concerto with the orchestra. “Career-wise, there are many paths I can take,” he said. “But right now my goal is to work as hard as I can for the next three years and make the most out of all my opportunities here.” He plans to pursue a master’s degree and artist’s diploma. “Once I have all these studies under my belt I’ll feel equipped to tackle the world’s challenges and then I’m going to see where life takes me.”

While Sam is looking ahead to his next three years of Kaleidoscope and his studies at the Schwob School, **Austin Murray**, a senior trombone major from Macon, Georgia, is looking back on his last Kaleidoscope with mixed emotions. “It is very bittersweet,” he said. “It is by far the most collaborative event the school puts on every year. So being able to hear all my peers playing as well as being able to play with so many different ensembles is really something special, and I’m glad the school does it every year.”

Austin performed in the last three Kaleidoscope events, he said. He did not perform his freshman year due to the pandemic when there was no show. “I loved it,” he said of his three years in Kaleidoscope. “I loved every minute of it.”

He said the biggest challenge of Kaleidoscope as a performer is logistical. “The biggest challenge is being in so many different events during the show and a lot of people playing in multiple groups,” he said. The challenge is switching between those groups and “kind of switching mindsets,” he added. “Each calls for its own unique responsibilities. Being ready for each one and having a different mindset each time is the biggest challenge for me.”

The “coolest” aspect for Austin was being able to hear his peers and see different groups playing in different styles and time periods. “It’s really just inspiring,” he said.

Austin chose Columbus State and the Schwob School for two reasons – proximity to his hometown and the school’s faculty and reputation. “Coming to Columbus was quite easy for me,” he said. “It’s close to home so that’s been really nice. Being able to go home to my family has been a huge thing, and I’m grateful for that.”

He has played the trombone since fifth grade. “I just started in a small band program,” he recalled. He said his parents weren’t into classical music when he was growing up, so his experiences have been “a kind of introduction” to the genre for his family.

Austin won the prestigious Presser Foundation award in 2023. He is a member of the Tuscaloosa Symphony, has performed as a



Austin Murray

substitute with the Alabama and Atlanta symphonies, and his travels with the Schwob Trombone Ensemble have taken him to Hawaii and Korea. Austin also is a member of the Schwob School’s Legacy Trombone Quartet which won the national competition in Washington, D.C., in March. He will compete with the quartet one last time at the International Trombone Festival in Fort Worth, Texas, in June.

That fifth grader who picked up a trombone 11 years ago has grown into an accomplished musician who will attend graduate school at Julliard beginning this fall. He will take with him fond memories of the Schwob School, his training under Dr. Bradley Palmer, professor of trombone, and experiences like Kaleidoscope. “It’s been really cool just being at Columbus State, and it has given me opportunities to get out into the larger world and start working professionally,” Austin said.

“I think the level of playing at Schwob is unlike any other. You find this same level at some of the best schools in the world,” he added. “And it’s amazing.” ■

MUSICOLOGY

Musicology program offers unique career opportunities

— by Marion Scott

The Schwob School of Music offered the first public musicology certificate in the country when it launched the current program in fall 2022. Two years later, Schwob will notch another first when its fully online program launches this fall.

The fully online program will mirror the existing program in terms of admission requirements, course work and required

credit hours. Students can complete the program in four semesters. Like the existing program, it will be open to students in any major with 12 or more credit hours in music.

The program requires 12 credit hours, or four courses. Those courses are introduction to public musicology; writing about music; music and identity, which focuses

on past and present underrepresented composers and music encoding, which is a unique markup language for music notation. Each course includes one or more projects in which all students must participate. The program prepares students for diverse careers, including music criticism and journalism, oral history, museum education, music archives and grant writing.

“Having this certificate available for our music students gives them extra skills that will make them valuable to the job market ... They’ll graduate from Columbus State ready for professional success with a portfolio of professional certificate-related work that accentuates their music degree.”

— Dr. Reba Wissner, assistant professor and coordinator of musicology certificate program



Jada Smith (BME, Choral Music Education, '26)



Writing about Music students explore a hymn book for the Sounding Spirit project

Jada Smith, a sophomore music education major from Bonaire, Georgia, is in the certificate program. She plans to teach music in elementary or high school. Jada is pursuing the certificate to learn to write about music. “Instead of just saying that I like a piece, I wanted to be able to describe in detail why I like a piece or how a piece has impacted me personally, not only in its form but in its sentimental value as well,” she said.

For Jada, the most rewarding aspect of the program is Wissner herself “who is always looking for opportunities to get her students recognized and out there.” There are challenges, but Jada takes those in stride. “The main challenge I face with pursuing the certificate is making time to do the work, but that’s just with any major or minor you have,” she said.

Jada recognizes the “employability” advantage of the certificate program. “It gives musicians more avenues for job opportunities and gaining more skills,” she said. “As a musician, it’s crucial for us to not only be well-rounded in our abilities but also to be able to advocate for ourselves and show others outside of our profession why music matters.”

“It gives musicians more avenues for job opportunities and gaining more skills,” she said. “As a musician, it’s crucial for us to not only be well-rounded in our abilities but also to be able to advocate for ourselves and show others outside of our profession why music matters.” — Jada Smith

Her experience in the program is teaching Jada a few life skills in addition to the academics. “One thing I’m learning is having patience with myself and working on my pacing in terms of projects,” she said. “Especially as a future music educator, pacing is something that I’ve been meaning to work on, and this project has helped me work on that.”

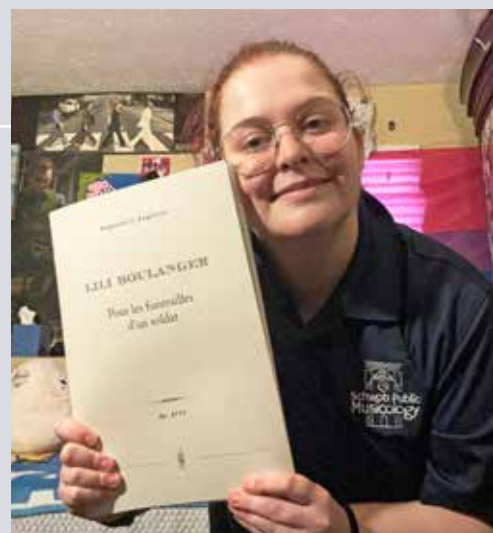
What would Jada tell a high school senior or CSU freshman who asks about the public musicology certificate program? “I’d tell them it’s a program I highly recommend getting into,” she said. She added that the fear of overwhelming amounts of work can be a “turn-off,” but pointed out that it’s only a four-course program and includes projects in which students are featured. “Whether you’re a performance, music education or even a non-music

major, it’s beneficial to have the extra skills this certificate teaches you under your belt,” Jada said.

Currently, 37 students are enrolled in the traditional certificate program, with two others planning to enroll in fall. Six students graduated between spring and fall 2023, one completed the certificate program after transferring to Georgia State in fall 2023 and an additional five had completed their course work by the end of last fall semester but have not yet completed their degrees. Six students are scheduled to graduate with the certificate this spring. An additional two will complete their course work this spring but are not graduating until fall. There are also four graduate students now working toward the certificate, and six students in the program are also in the Honors College.



Recent graduates, current musicology students taking varied paths



Leila Koch (BA, '23) interned with the Institute for Composer Diversity, conducting research and data entry for the art song database. She also conducted research that led to the institute's 2023 National Federation of State High School Associations' State Repertoire List (Choral) report.

Adrian Locklear (BM, '24, Clarinet Performance) discovered his love for music writing in the program. He took the introductory class to see what it was all about and ended up joining the program. He's been writing program notes, along with another student, Mary Claire Buchanan (BM, '24, Voice Performance and the Honors College), for Schwob ensembles, studio and individual recitals and Music under the Dome. Adrian is also a CSU Archives and Special Collections intern this semester, along with another student (Megan Ricketts, BA, '24, History).

Anthony Cangemi (BM, '24 in Trombone Performance and Business Minor) is going on to a master's program in arts management and will be an operations intern at the Aspen Music Festival this summer. While an internship is not required for the certificate, Wissner noted students have interned with historic houses related to music, CSU's Archives and Special Collections, the Institute for Composer Diversity, "The Columbusite" arts publication and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

Spencer White (BA, '23) is now in the Peace Corps but is also enrolled in the master's program in Music Leadership at the Eastman School of Music. He is interested in development and worked as a development intern at the Aspen Music Festival last summer.

Erin Fowler (BME, '25, Oboe and the Honors College) is interning with "The Columbusite." Erin is interested in working in museum education specific to music and accessibility. She is using her experience working on the Columbus Museum exhibit on blues and folk music and her knowledge of accessibility she learned in the music and identity course for her senior honors thesis project – designing an accessible museum exhibit.



Students visiting the Ma Rainey House in spring 2024 (left), Megan Ricketts (BA, History '24) working in the CSU Archives in fall 2023 (center), and student docents for the Instruments of Historic Personality exhibit in fall 2023 (right)

The certificate program attracts students from various disciplines, including such diverse majors as interdisciplinary studies, information systems management, history and psychology.

Wissner knows of at least one Schwob alumna who wanted to start the program before she graduated and now intends to come back for the online program. "I'm hoping people who either graduated and couldn't do it will come back, and some of those who have some of the classes under their belt will come back and finish the program online," she said. "I know that when the program started, a lot of people asked if there was a fully online, standalone option, so I expect there to be good enrollment once the word gets out."

Wissner shared her thoughts on why the mission of public musicology is so important to the community and more broadly to society in general. "Musicians in many ways are siloed; we're always in the practice room and doing our own thing, hanging out with each other. As a result, we often forget how to talk to people who are not musicians," she said. "That's the real goal of public musicology: to bring knowledge of music to those who love it but might not know much about it."

What would this experienced, engaged professor and mentor tell a high school

senior or CSU freshman about the musicology program? "The most important thing is that there are many ways to be a musician, many of which they don't tell you about in school," Wissner said. "The public musicology program teaches all those things. Most students go to college wanting to pursue music thinking that the only opportunities are performance and teaching, and that's really not true. This program teaches students the myriad ways they can use their training as musicians," she added. "They'll learn to code, to write grants, to write program notes, to work in museum settings."

For those who choose not to be musicians but want to study music, the knowledge and skill set can be valuable, especially when they're working with public-facing projects. For example, they learn about working with large organizations, the importance of meeting deadlines and the implications if deadlines are not met. "Knowing how to talk about music to people who don't know much about music can be useful whether they're trying to talk to donors if they're working in a development position, or as a parent or teacher trying to convince their local school district why music education is important and shouldn't be subjected to budget reductions," Wissner said. She added that even

if they are not pursuing the certificate, every Schwob student should take at least one public musicology class "to broaden their horizons and learn about how their experience and knowledge as musicians can serve them in broader ways than they might think."

She mentioned several recent graduates who completed the certificate program as well as current students engaged in interesting projects and internships. (See sidebar.) She also noted just a few of the activities considered "public musicology," including traditional pre-concert talks and program notes, podcasts, YouTube channels and social media, museum curation, library and archive science, forensic musicology, music documentary writing and directing, community education and educational writing – even music landmarks preservation. "But these are people who had to find their own way in public musicology because there was no training for it," Wissner said. "So, there's a whole host of things people can do with the certificate, and since we're so new, I'm looking forward to seeing what more graduates will do! I'm almost positive at least some of them will invent public musicology careers that don't exist yet." ■

Jack and Nicole Ceccato: FROM TRAGEDY TO LEGACY

– by Marion Scott



Dr. Jon Bartlett

Many people can name an educator who made an indelible impression on them. It may have been a middle-school coach, or that high-school history teacher or the quirky Latin instructor who dressed as Julius Caesar every year on the Ides of March. For young Cara Ceccato, an “extraordinary” contralto, according to her proud father, that educator was the late Dr. Jon Bartlett, associate professor of voice in the Columbus College music department in the mid-1990s.

John (Jack) and Nicole Ceccato are New Jersey natives who grew up close enough to New York to experience the cultural magic “the City” has to offer. Music – especially singing – was a constant in their lives. They attended Rutgers University and sang together, performing with the likes of Leopold Stokowski, Leonard Bernstein and Eugene Ormandy. They performed Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra during the World Expo opening in 1967. “We got married in college and had no money whatsoever,” Nicole recalls. “This was our honeymoon. We went to the Expo for free and our room was free, so our honeymoon cost \$4 for a bottle of Champagne.”

Jack and Nicole moved to Columbus when Jack was stationed at Fort Benning. Nicole was a therapist, Jack taught high-school English and they started their family. At the same time, they became active in local music, with Nicole singing in the Columbus Civic Chorale and Jack joining later when it became the Choral Union, as well as the choir at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Cara attended Shaw High School where Dr. William (Bill) Bullock, a colleague, friend and director of choral activities at Columbus College, suggested she take private voice lessons from Bartlett. Cara studied with him for two years while in high school. When it was time to look at colleges, they considered several but ultimately chose Columbus College, where she continued to study voice under Bartlett.

Then, in March 1994, Bartlett died unexpectedly. While some of his colleagues knew he was ill, the death came as a shock to many at the college and in the community – especially to Cara.

“When he died, a piece of her soul died,” her parents say quietly. “She didn’t want to sing; she didn’t like any of the other professors and she was talking about changing majors.” Cara did not present her senior recital, nor did she earn her degree in vocal performance. She did graduate with a fine arts degree, but not vocal performance. The joy was gone. “That was a shame because she had the voice and she had the talent, but she just wasn’t herself,” her parents recall. “It was just a horrible

event in her life and in ours too.”

Several years ago Cara asked her parents if anything had ever been done to honor Bartlett’s memory. They checked and there was not, so they contacted Rex Whiddon, senior associate vice president for Leadership Philanthropy and Strategic Initiatives at CSU. They asked Whiddon what they could do, and he said currently there were no funds restricted just to support voice scholarships. They discussed the possibility of creating such a scholarship with their financial adviser, then met with Whiddon, Scott Harris, director of the Schwob School and Dr. Michelle (Shellie) DeBruyn, then coordinator of vocal studies. “They were very excited,” Nicole recalls.

The Ceccatos made an initial four-year commitment to the scholarship fund. “My guess is we will continue it as is, and when we are no longer able, it will fall to Cara to decide what she wants to do,” Nicole says. “But hopefully, that is a long way away.”

The Dr. Jon Bartlett Music Scholarship Fund was established in August 2021, and the first scholarships were awarded Fall semester 2022. Scholarships are renewable for four years. Eight students currently receive scholarships. Recipients are named by the Schwob director, in consultation with the Schwob School of Music Scholar-

ship Committee, which establishes criteria for the award. Primary consideration is given to applicants based on financial need and artistic merit.

Bullock, who in addition to his role at the college, was director of the Civic Chorale and choir director at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, knew the Ceccato family and Bartlett well. “It was a shock from which we will not soon recover,” he wrote in a tribute in a 1995 college publication. He noted the affection and respect students and faculty alike had for the talented and engaging Bartlett. “If we are to find any meaning in Jon’s death, it must be in the power of his artistic integrity,” he wrote.

Today, Bullock still recalls the shock of Bartlett’s unexpected death. Bartlett was scheduled to perform as vocal soloist for a concert Bullock was conducting. He called him the night before the concert to say he just couldn’t perform but he had found a substitute. Bartlett died that night. “He was still planning to do that concert literally the last night of his life,” Bullock says with emotion. “Right up to the last moment of his life he showed that professionalism and dedication to his craft.”

When asked what Bartlett would think of the scholarship named in his memory, Jack and Nicole agree that he

would be grateful and proud. They also understand the meaning it has for CSU and the Schwob School. “From a practical standpoint, it allows them to help six to seven students a year,” they say. But there is a deeper, broader meaning to the Ceccatos. “It’s an enticement to promising young vocalists just like Cara who may not have thought about attending CSU but for whom a scholarship makes it possible for them to go,” Jack says. “So, it gives CSU an opportunity to attract talented students and gives those students an opportunity to get a very fine musical education.”

And young Cara? She married, eventually earned a master’s degree in library science and worked as a library director and in a school system. Then she tried something new – working for a law firm, which she finds interesting, her mother says. She did perform one more time as part of a community choir and she’s been asked many times to sing in church choirs, but she always declines. “She said ‘Mom, when Jon Bartlett died, the music died,’ and she’s comfortable with that,” Nicole says. “She has a beautiful, God-given voice, but she just can’t go there. The pain was too deep.”

Whiddon recalls the news about Bartlett’s death but also the difference the scholarship makes. “It sent shock waves throughout the Schwob School,” he says today. “He was a highly respected colleague and beloved teacher who was only beginning to make his mark. The generosity of Nicole and Jack Ceccato in establishing this scholarship means so much to those of us who knew, admired and respected him.”

So, while the music died for Cara, in a very real way her parents are keeping it alive – in Jon Bartlett’s memory, for promising young vocalists studying at the Schwob School and out of the deep love they share for their daughter – and for music. ■



Jack and Nicole Ceccato



Enluis Montes Olivar, Natalie Crosby, Jada Smith, Zachary Hornbeck, Makoa Whitfield

RESPECTED PROFESSOR RETIRES AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS

– by *Marion Scott*

A position as organist and choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church brought Joseph Golden to Columbus in 1983 and a teaching position in Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music followed in 1987. Now, this respected musician, conductor, organ designer and educator is retiring from the music school he has served so well for nearly four decades.

He's come a long way from the boy who grew up in rural East Texas. His career has taken him to some of the finest cathedrals and performance venues in the country, and he has taught aspiring musicians and vocalists who now perform on international stages.

Golden earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in music from the University of North Texas. While there, he discovered he had "the voice" for opera performance and continued his studies in that new discipline.

"My father was just flabbergasted when I said I found out I had a real voice and wanted to stay in school a while longer," Golden recalled. Although he was putting himself through school, his father still questioned his son's desire to pursue both organ and opera. "He said in quiet exasperation that 'there is no time that you're alive that you will ever combine an organ and opera,' and I said, 'well, I don't know which way I'll go. I'll just see where the job offers are.'"

"Without question, his impact on our music program will be felt for years to come."

– *Rex Whiddon, Senior Associate Vice President for Leadership Philanthropy and Strategic Initiatives, CSU University Advancement*

He went with the organ, and took a job as associate organist/choirmaster at the Church of Saint John the Divine in Houston, Texas, which at the time was one of the largest Episcopal congregations in the United States. He later accepted the position at Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus. After settling into his new position and his new city, he soon met Rex Whiddon, who was then director of Columbus College's music program. Whiddon saw the talent and drive and, with support from the late G. Gunby Jordan II, local business executive, philanthropist and arts patron, eventually he was able to hire Golden at Columbus College.

“My question to all students at all levels of endeavor is this: ‘Why are you doing this? Is it to impress people or to inspire them?’ I think there is the whole nutshell of what my teaching has been about. It is to inspire by example.”

Eventually, Golden was appointed director of the opera program. “I took it over and with great glee I called my father and told him I’d been hired as director of opera and reminded him what he had said about organ and opera,” Golden recalled. “So we could laugh about it from then on, but it was a very unusual combination,” he said. It allowed him to do both things he had wanted to do and he did not have to choose one love over the other.

“The incredible support of Mr. Jordan of course made all that possible,” he added. Golden also noted Whiddon’s effort in expanding his role in the music department by assigning him to teach music history and theory. “I became part time and then full time four years later,” Golden said. “The ability to keep the church job and do what was required there, and then teach full time was just – that was two dreams coming true at the same time,” he said. “Very few of my colleagues have had such good fortune to have that sort of situation, and I have felt uniquely privileged to be in that position all these years. It’s just been unbelievable.”

Golden recalled that when he went full time in 1991 he served on his first of many faculty search committees. “I learned so much about what goes on behind the scenes and about the machinery that has to work for getting through the vetting process, and then all the final interviews and the decision making,” he said. The motto then and today is to “be certain you hire somebody better than yourself,” he added. Golden estimated he has been involved in 27 faculty searches.



Golden noted the impact of private donations and corporate sponsorships on the success of what has become the Schwob School of Music. The support of the “outstanding patrons” – beginning with Joyce and Henry Schwob – has been “extremely important,” he said. The continually evolving quality of incoming students is also important, he added.

Because he loves what he does, it’s not surprising that when asked to identify one or two highlights over his career, he came up with four. The first he cited is the dedication of the Jordan organ in RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall in 2001. Golden took an organ design course in graduate school and has served as a consultant for new organ projects over the years. In the graduate course, they were to “design the perfect teaching instrument where students could learn repertoire from all the major periods from say 1500 to the present with sounds that would be authentic enough to inspire their music making, not just facilitate it,” Golden said.

His dream became a reality when he designed the magnificent organ dedicated in memory of his longtime friend and benefactor. “The organ is more beautiful and magnificent than I could have imagined, even having seen it completely put together and being played this past February in Canada,” Golden said in a Columbus State news release in September 2001, just a few months before the dedication. “It is the perfect wedding of room and instrument.”

Golden recalled talking with Orgues LeTourneau of Canada when they were interviewing organ builders. “He said well, from what you described that you want the organ to do we can build this instrument for you,” Golden said. “He said you go back home and write up a list of the stops and the names and we will talk. I said well, I can do that right now. Just give me a piece of paper, because I had been living with this design all these years, thinking that I would never have the opportunity to use it.”

Golden said he thought about Rex Whiddon when he walked out on stage three times over three consecutive days to play the dedication concerts. “I thought, I just really can’t believe this is happening. He and I had stood with hard hats on the cement floor of the area where the organ was going to eventually be one day,” he said. “And I said to him, can you believe this?”

Golden’s other highlights included producing “The Marriage of Figaro” with a talented student named Michael Sumuel who was “the real deal.” Sumuel now performs at The Metropolitan Opera in New York City. He also mentioned working with another remarkable student named Maureen McKay who is also on the full roster at The Met. “So we have these two graduates and they’re equally talented and I was equally proud of being able to work with them and help them,” he said. He follows their careers to this day and stays in touch with both of them.

His fourth highlight is the construction of RiverCenter for the Performing Arts which houses the Schwob School, Legacy Hall with its outstanding acoustics and the Bill Heard Theater. “It’s a wonderful facility,” he said. “Everyone who comes to Legacy Hall to perform wants to take it away with them.”

Looking back on his philosophy of teaching, Golden noted that he always tried to tailor his teaching toward encouraging students rather than demanding things from them. “I have never worked that way, and my question to all students at all levels of endeavor is this: ‘Why are you doing this? Is it to impress people or to inspire them?’” he said. “I think there is the whole nutshell of what my teaching has been about. It is to inspire by example.”

Whiddon, who hired Golden all those years ago, is now the senior associate vice president for Leadership Philanthropy & Strategic Initiatives at Columbus State. He looked back on that hiring in 1987 as one of the best professional decisions he has ever made. “Joseph is a multi-faceted individual who is equally at home in the classroom and studio as well as in the world of church music,” Whiddon said. “Both the Schwob School of Music and Trinity Epis-



Nora Jordan Garrard, Helen Jordan Hobbs, Joseph Golden, the late Helen (Mrs. G. Gunby) Jordan, Katherine Jordan Waddell at the dedication in 2001.

copal Church are the beneficiaries of his talent and his many years of commitment and dedication. Without question, his impact on our music program will be felt for years to come.”

Helen Jordan Hobbs, daughter of Gunby Jordan and Golden’s longtime friend, recalled the lasting friendship her father and Golden formed early on. They shared the same passion for powerful organ music – the bigger and louder, the better. “Daddy came to know Joseph through Trinity Episcopal Church and he also loved the organ,” she said. Her father made it possible through an endowment for Golden to teach full time in the music school in addition to continuing his position at the church – that combination of the two things he loved most.

“He is certainly beloved by everybody in the community,” Hobbs said of Golden. “He elevated or was a large part of the suc-

cess of the Schwob School. He brought national and international renown to the organ program,” and the music school to the level of prominence it enjoys today, she added.

Like his colleagues on the Schwob School faculty, the parishioners at Trinity Episcopal Church and hundreds in this community he has called home since 1983, Hobbs wishes Golden all the best in retirement. “He is a wonderful person,” she said. “Joseph is dear to all our hearts and he has enriched our lives so much.” ■

Please see page 38 for photos of Professor Golden’s retirement celebration, held April 25 at RiverCenter for the Performing Arts.



Food pantry offers hungry students sustenance, comfort

– by Marion Scott

Schwob School students have a place to turn if their kitchen cupboards are bare. From canned goods offering sustenance to cookies and other snacks providing comfort, Betty Auten, longtime Schwob School volunteer and donor, makes sure the food pantry shelves remain full.

Dr. Kristen Hansen, former associate professor and now part-time senior lecturer, started the food pantry. “It began modestly, consisting of instant soup, ramen noodles and crackers,” Auten recalled. “Dr. Hansen became aware that some students didn’t have or take time for lunch or were running short of money.”

Auten learned about the food pantry in late 2016 and began supplementing what Hansen provided. She said her involvement grew in 2018 and when Hansen began working remotely in 2021 during the pandemic, she took responsibility for running it. “By then, the variety of foods available were similar to what you would find on the shelves in a grocery store,” Auten recalled. Foods are non-perishable, although shelf-stable foods such as onions, tomatoes and fruit not requiring refrigeration are appreciated.

Except for occasional donations, usually from Schwob advisory board members, Auten shops and pays for the food items herself and restocks the shelves Mondays and Thursdays year-round. “Donations are accepted and welcomed,” she said.

A chance conversation with Norman Easterbrook, executive director of RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, led to what has become an annual event, Auten added. Every year around Halloween RiverCenter screens a silent film. Easterbrook asks attendees to bring donations for the food pantry, and offers a discount to those who do. “That’s a huge help and we are very grateful,” Auten said.

She also coordinates donations of household items, including bed and bath linens and furniture in good condition, for students who live off campus. Auten and volunteers also put together “welcome” baskets of essential household items for new off-campus students arriving in fall and spring semesters. “We happily accept donations of food, furniture items, clothing and household items in good condition and they can be donated year-round,” she said.

She credits the commitment of Debra Tommey, admissions and business coordinator for the Schwob School, for recognizing the needs of the students and having the heart to address those needs. “I’d say ‘Mama Bear’ is in charge of services for her ‘cubs,’ and she is good at finding them the help they need,” Auten said, referring to Tommey.

Auten is also active in the Schwob School in many other ways, including serving on the board of advisors and hosting the welcome table at concerts and other events. She said it is a great pleasure to get to know the music students and help them prepare for the exciting futures ahead of them. “At 81, and retired for nearly 20 years, I doubt that I could find a better purpose.”



DONATE TO THE FOOD PANTRY

Canned items most needed:

- Chicken
- Tuna
- Other meats
- Beans
- Corn
- Mixed vegetables
- Tomatoes
- Fruit
- Soup

Packaged items most needed:

- Chicken
- Tuna
- Pasta
- Rice
- Crackers
- Macaroni & cheese
- Single-serving cups of:
 - fruit
 - applesauce
 - pudding
 - Jello
- Individually wrapped:
 - crackers
 - cookies

For more information on donating food and other items please contact:

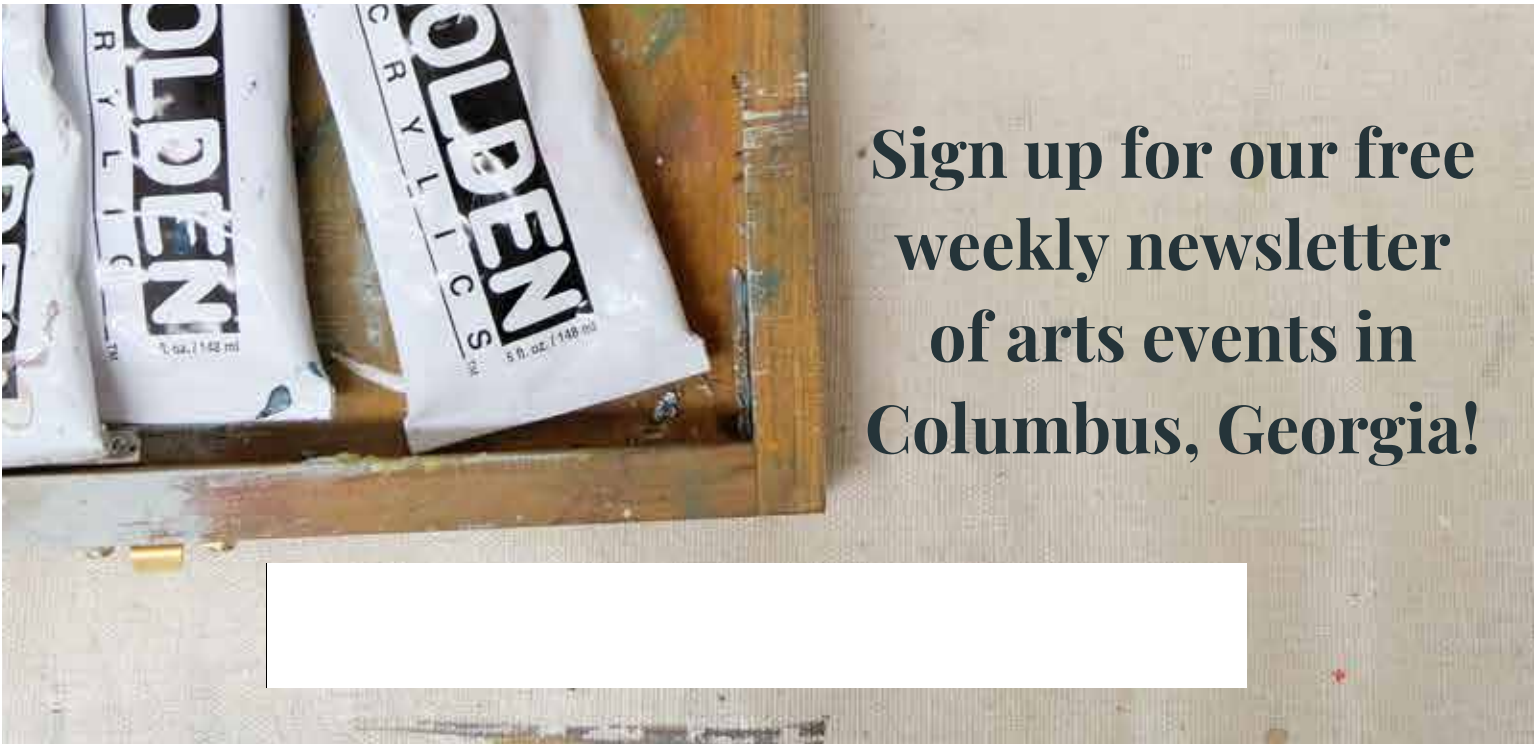
Debra Tommey
tommey_debra@columbusstate.edu
or 706-649-7224.

For more information on how CSU is addressing student food insecurity campuswide, see <https://www.columbusstate.edu/servant-leadership/>

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Joyce Fingerhut
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Wayne K. Hostetter
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Javona Yanoschik
By Tom Yanoschik

Kevin Yanoschik
By Tom Yanoschik

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By Jacquie Rawls

Sue Taylor and Gloria Stover
By Robert and Susan Cheney Hiers

Mikio and Andree Tomita
By Robert and Susan Cheney Hiers

Timothy H. Whalen
By Kevin and Charley Whalen

Save the Dates!



February 8, 2025

The annual event funds scholarships for CSU's music students. In addition to an evening of dining and fellowship, guests enjoy performances by students, faculty and alumni performing as soloists and part of various combos, choirs and quartets.



KALEIDOSCOPE

March 29, 2025

Annual showcase of over 200 Schwob student musicians in a fast-paced performance – the highlight of the season!

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In the Community

Opera Outreach Entertains, Educates and Inspires

This spring Schwob Opera performed our annual opera outreach production at the Rainey-McCullers School of the Arts in collaboration with the Muscogee County School District. Our production of the children's opera, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, marks the fifth collaboration of our unique education and performance outreach model to promote arts education for students of all ages. The mission of the Schwob Opera Outreach program is to foster musical growth, understanding, and appreciation in students of all ages through opera performance and music education. We are committed to providing in-depth music and arts experiences for students in our local community. We want to encourage and enrich artistic engagement through our outreach performances. We aim to instill a lifelong artistic curiosity in students through our interactive classroom and performance experiences.

The opera outreach project helps connect student music learning activities to cross-disciplinary topics in math, reading, science, theater arts, foreign languages,



Rebecca Manseau, Ashley Requeno, Rachel Ward, and Colin Daniell

and more! The opera outreach also helps unite our community through the opera's narrative of problem solving, teamwork, diversity, and inclusion while engaging the students through the musical language of operatic composers. By coupling education and performance activities, we want to provide an opportunity for service learning, community collaboration, and unique performance experiences to inspire the next generation of young artists! This outreach

project helps not only our collegiate performers and music education students gain experience in their fields, but it also makes an impact in our community for all students to see how music can help them understand the world around them for a lifetime of learning! Our opera outreach program has now been seen by over 8,000 students in our community.

— by *Dr. Joshua May,*
Director of Schwob Opera Theatre



Children in the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Chattahoochee Valley engage in programming provided by the Schwob School.



Making Music with the Kids

Since 2020, the Schwob School of Music, in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Chattahoochee Valley, has offered a music program providing children and teenagers with an enriching educational experience, fostering their personal growth and enhancing their social skills and values for lifelong success. The program is structured with a flexible logic, offering content that can be adjusted according to the participants' interests. It nurtures both the artistic and social abilities of the students, while also honing the teaching skills of volunteer educators, who are students in Music Education and Music Performance at Columbus State University. We have integrated methodological resources aimed at sparking students' interest and fostering their engagement with music. These resources serve as strategies to instill important formative attitudes, such as teamwork, positive leadership, appreciation for individual and collective efforts, respect for diversity, recognition of personal and group achievements, and peer-to-peer learning, among others. The experience has been immensely rewarding for both students and volunteer teachers. It presents an ongoing challenge in the exploration and diversification of pedagogical strategies, to create an environment conducive to effective learning, mutual respect, and enjoyment. These initiatives not only foster the holistic development of the participants but also represent a valuable opportunity for the Schwob School to strategically engage with communities. They allow us to connect with these communities from a standpoint of social responsibility and commitment, establishing meaningful relationships that extend beyond the boundaries of our institution. Each party involved reaps significant rewards from the synergy created in the process. The Boys & Girls Club expands its educational offerings, volunteer teachers enrich their pedagogical skills, enrolled students partake in a formative enjoyable music experience, and the Schwob School of Music further solidifies its mission by fostering close community engagement. The program has been held at two locations to date: the East Columbus Boys & Girls Club and its current venue, Brewer Elementary School. Ten volunteer teachers have been involved in instructing approximately 50 students ages 8 to 14, guiding them in various areas, including musical initiation, wind instruments, and keyboard.

— By *Victor Guzman*

Opera Outreach Full Cast Meet & Greet from left to right: Jake Tabatowski-Bush, Xzavier McGhee, Ashley Requeno, Rachel Ward, Colin Daniell, Rebecca Manseau, Sierra Reis.



Alumni News

Information on these alumni was featured as part of the table centerpieces at GUSTO! 2024.

■ 1990s

Johannes Müller Stosch '97 (BM) a highly accomplished German-born conductor, currently serves as the Director of Orchestral Activities at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, significantly elevating the orchestra's status in Southern California. Renowned for his stylistic and expressive leadership, he is also the Music Director and Conductor of the Holland Symphony, overseeing unprecedented growth and establishing the Young American Composers Competition. In 2019, he became the Music Director of the Orange County Youth Symphony, marking its 50th anniversary. Stosch's active guest-conducting schedule includes performances with the Kunming Philharmonic in China, Long Beach Symphony, and Peninsula Symphony. Passionate about early music, he collaborates with renowned German ensembles and has won the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize. Stosch's multi-faceted contributions extend



KELLEN GRAY '08

■ Roderick Cox '09

Berlin-based American conductor Roderick Cox '09 (BM), recipient of the 2018 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award, is acclaimed as a trail-blazer in the classical music world. His upcoming engagements include debuts with prestigious orchestras like the Philadelphia Orchestra, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, and Staatskapelle Dresden. Notable recent appearances include performances with the Boston Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, and recording Jeanine Tesori's Blue with the Washington National Opera. Committed to education and diversity, Cox initiated the Roderick Cox Music Initiative (RCMI) in 2019, providing scholarships for young musicians from historically marginalized communities. Born in Macon, Georgia, Cox studied at the Schwob School of Music and Northwestern University, receiving the Robert J. Harth Conducting Prize in 2013. Appointed Associate Conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra in 2016, he continues to shape the future of classical music through innovative projects and performances.



to solo performances, organ and harpsichord work, and leadership roles at California State University, Long Beach.

■ 2000s

Constantin Barcov '08 (BM) is a Romanian bassoonist. He has been a Solo Bassoonist at the Philharmonisches Staatsorchester Hamburg (Hamburg Philharmoniker and Hamburg State Opera), a position which he formerly held at the Malmö Opera in Sweden. He is the first Romanian bassoonist to win a solo position in a major international orchestra.

Scotland-based American conductor **Kellen Gray '08** (BM) '18 (AD) renowned for his versatile and imaginative artistry, is the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's first-ever Associate Artist, following a successful tenure as Assistant Conductor. In this role, he conducts, curates, and presents diverse programs. Simultaneously, Gray serves as an

Assistant Conductor at the English National Opera and collaborates with the National Symphony Orchestra and Minnesota Orchestra. Prior roles include Associate Conductor of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and Assistant Conductor positions with the Chicago Sinfonietta and Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. His debut album, "African American Voices," with the RSNO received 5-stars, showcasing his attention to detail and passion for authenticity in performances of composers like William Dawson and William Grant Still. A champion for African-diasporic composers, Gray founded Project Aurora, illustrating the richness of African American arts. His upcoming engagements include appearances with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and English National Opera, showcasing his dynamic and impactful approach to classical music.

Maureen McKay '01 (BM) Maureen McKay '01 (BM) highly acclaimed soprano, is celebrated for her exquisite silvery soprano voice and dynamic character portrayals. This season, she shines at The Metropolitan Opera with multiple assignments, including the role of the Shepherd in Tannhäuser and covering Lisette in La Rondine and Laura Brown in The Hours. McKay will also grace The American Pops Orchestra's performance at the Atlantic Council's Distinguished Leadership Awards, honoring Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. In the previous season (2022-2023), McKay made a triumphant return to Seattle Opera in the world premiere of Sheila Silver's A Thousand Splendid Suns, based on Khaled Hosseini's renowned novel. Her versatility was showcased at The Metropolitan Opera, where she performed as the 2nd Niece in Peter Grimes and covered roles such as Pamina in Die Zauberflöte and Adina in L'Elisir d'Amore. The 2021-2022 season featured McKay in various roles at The Metropolitan Opera, including Echo in Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos and covering Pamina in The Magic Flute, Susanna in Le nozze di Figaro, and Anne Trulove in The Rake's Progress. Her engagements also extended to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven's 9th Symphony with Bravo! Vail. McKay's impressive career includes engagements with prestigious opera houses and festivals worldwide. As a previous member of the ensemble at the Komische Oper Berlin, McKay sang leading roles in the premieres of several new productions. She made her much-anticipated Metropolitan Opera debut as Gretel in Hansel and Gretel during the 2017-18 season and returned in subsequent seasons for various roles. Her diverse repertoire spans from classic operas to contemporary works, and her commitment to both live performances and collaborative projects demonstrates her passion for the arts. With a solid educational background, including a Bachelor of Music from Columbus State University and a Master of Music from The Ohio State University, Maureen McKay continues to captivate audiences globally with her exceptional vocal artistry and compelling stage presence.



MICHAEL SUMUEL '07

In the 23/24 season American bass-baritone **Michael Sumuel '07** (BM) lauded as having "vocals that are smooth and ingratiating" (Daily Camera), will sing Reginald in a new production of X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X at The Metropolitan Opera, Sharpless in Madama Butterfly with Houston Grand Opera and the Forester in The Cunning Little Vixen at Detroit Opera. A busy concert artist, Mr. Sumuel joins Jaap van Zweden and the New York Philharmonic for Mozart's Requiem, Jonathan Cohen for Handel's Messiah with the San Francisco Symphony, Les Violons du Roy in Québec for Bach's Christmas Oratorio, also with Jonathan Cohen, Jane Glover and Music of the Baroque for Mozart's Requiem and Bach's Magnificat, Bernard Labadie and the Seattle Symphony for Bach's Passion According to St. John, the National Symphony Orchestra for the Fauré Requiem and Washington National Cathedral as Jesus in St. Matthew Passion. In the 22/23 season, Mr. Sumuel returned to The Metropolitan Opera, singing Belcore in L'elisir d'amore. Other debuts included Elviro in Xerxes with Detroit Opera, and Figaro in Le nozze di Figaro with Pittsburgh Opera. In concert, Mr. Sumuel performed Mozart's Requiem with the Cincinnati Symphony and James Conlon, Bach cantatas BWV 61 and 140 with the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, opened Washington Concert Opera's season, performing in a gala with soprano Tamara Wilson, and returned to Mercury Houston for Handel's Messiah. Finally, with Pacific Chorale, Mr. Sumuel took part in a European tour, performing in Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass and Florence Price's Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight.



CARRIE BETH WALLACE '08

Dr. Robert Sharpe '08 (BM) began his formal study of the classical guitar with Andrew Zohn in 2000. Since his national radio debut on NPR's "From the Top," Sharpe has received many awards and honors including the first prize in the 2006 East Carolina University Guitar Competition, second prize in the 2006 Music Academy of North Carolina Guitar Competition, third prize in the 2006 St. Joseph International Guitar Competition and fourth prize in the 2006 National Guitar Workshop Competition. Robert Sharpe has performed as a soloist in the United States, Italy, Canada and Slovenia. International performances include concerts at the Guitar Festival on the Mediterranean in Italy and the Guitar Festival of Lipica in Slovenia. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in music/music performance from Columbus State University in 2008 where he was the recipient of the Woodruff Award and the Presser Foundation Music Scholarship. He earned his master's degree in music from Yale University and studied with Jason Vieaux pursuing a doctorate degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Formerly, he taught music theory at Columbus State and currently serves on the Schwob School of Music Board of Advisors.

Carrie Beth Wallace '08 (BM) is an arts and entertainment journalist with a passion for communicating positive news about local arts and culture. Carrie Beth fell in love with arts journalism while working as a reporter for the Sunday Arts section of the Ledger-Enquirer. For several years, Carrie Beth worked to build and maintain relationships with local arts organizations as she ensured their efforts, events, and latest developments were communicated to over 35,000 readers per month. Her

Alumni News (cont'd.)

effort to provide accessible information about the arts and cultural landscape of the Chattahoochee Valley led to increases in event attendance, cultural engagement, and economic growth across the region.

Matthew White '06 (BM) is a native of Columbus, Georgia, graduating from Kendrick High School in 2001. He began teaching at Rainey McCullers in Fall of 2021. Mr. White earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music in 2006. While at CSU, he studied Choral Music under Dr. Michael Marcades and private voice from Mr. Earl Coleman. For the past 15 years, Mr. White has been the Choral Director at Kendrick High School. Under his direction, Kendrick choirs consistently received Superior ratings at Large Group Performance Evaluation. In 2016, the Kendrick High School Singers had the distinguished honor of being one of four high school choirs to perform at the 100th birthday celebration of Robert Shaw in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2020, the KHS Singers sang for the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference in Athens, Georgia.

Richard Williams '06 (BM) is a member of the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra, Artist-in-Residence for horn at Kennesaw



STAFF SGT. PHILIP BROOME '10

State University, host of the Atlanta Horn Chamber Music festival, and horn instructor at the prestigious Westminster Schools in Atlanta. He has participated in the New Hampshire Music Festival and several recording sessions for video games as well as a major motion picture soundtrack. He has served as a substitute musician with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Opera Orchestra, and as the long-term substitute principal horn of Symphony Orchestra Augusta for their 2014-2015 season. Richard frequently plays with the Huntsville and Chattanooga Symphony Orchestras and is fourth horn of the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra. For five years, he served as an adjunct faculty member at Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music.

■ 2010s

Euphonium player **Staff Sgt. Philip Broome '10** (BM) '12 (MM) of Atlanta joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in June 2023. Staff Sgt. Broome began his musical instruction on coronet at age 9 playing with the Salvation Army music program in the Southeast. Upon graduating in 2006 from Mt. Pisgah Christian School in Johns Creek, Georgia, he attended Columbus State University where he began playing euphonium. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Broome was principal euphonium in the United States Army's West Point Band. Staff Sgt. Broome performs with the Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra at the White House, in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and across the country during the band's annual concert tour.

Sam Brown '17 (MM) is Arts Department Chair and Piano Instructor at Rainey-McCullers School of the Arts in Columbus, Georgia. As a collaborative pianist, he has performed at Carnegie Hall and accompanied choral programs. Recognized with Top Teacher awards from Steinway & Sons, he established the Rainey-McCullers piano studio, with his students earning top ratings in competitions. Sam serves on the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus



SAM BROWN '17

board and enjoys playing badminton and family time with his wife, newborn son, and three cats.

Katie (Holbrook) Buckley '18 (BM) is a sixth-year general music teacher at Blanchard Elementary School in Columbus, Georgia. She was named Blanchard's First Year Teacher of the Year in 2019, and more recently, their Teacher of the Year for the 23-24 school year. She has several leadership roles in her school and throughout the school district and is the current GMEA District 3 Elementary Division Chair. She remains musically active as a choral scholar at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, where she performed the role of Mother in Amahl and the Night Visitors in 2019. She also continues to sing in CSU's Choral Union. Lyric soprano **Kimberli Render '11** (BM) made her Off-Broadway debut as a Swing in the Lincoln Center Theater's critically acclaimed premier of the opera Intimate Apparel, directed by Bartlett Sher. Ms. Render made her Metropolitan Opera debut as a featured chorus soloist in the GRAMMY award-winning production of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess. Roles include Liu in Turandot, Donna Anna in Don Giovanni, Hanna Glawari in The Merry Widow, Elisetta in Il matrimonio segreto,

■ Boris Abramov

Boris Abramov '10 (BM) '12 (AD) '14 (MM) hailed as a violinist with outstanding technical prowess and musical talent, is a promising artist renowned for his solo, chamber, and orchestral performances world-wide. Starting violin studies at age 6, he honed his skills at the Schwob School of Music under Sergiu Schwartz. A recipient of national and international awards, including the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Competition in 2008, Abramov earned the 2021 Young Alumni Award from Columbus State University. His international career features solo appearances and chamber music engagements, collaborating with renowned artists. His debut album, Mozart-Beethoven Violin and Cello Duets with cellist Carmine Miranda, received critical acclaim and awards. A principal second violinist with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra (2014-2023), Abramov also contributes as an educator, serving as Vice-President of the Samuel Vargas International Music Foundation and conducting seminars globally. Abramov's students have excelled in prestigious institutions and orchestras.



the Governess in Turn of the Screw, and Lucinda in Into the Woods. Cover roles include Louise/Betty in the recent revival of X: The Life and Times of Malcom X, Leah in Southern Crossings (Jabri), Marguerite in Faust, and Micaela in Carmen. Ms. Render's career includes solo, concert, ensemble, and chorus work. Concert engagements include Mozart's Coronation Mass, Rossini's Stabat Mater, and Bach's Magnificat under the baton of the world-renowned conductor Helmuth Rilling. Ms. Render completed a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Colorado State University and two Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance at Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music.

"Magnificent," wrote the New York Concert Review about Taiwanese pianist **Tzu-yi Chen's '13** (AD) 2014 solo debut at Carnegie Hall, praising her performance saying she "displayed not only the usual technical command one expects, but beautiful tone, total artistic involvement, deep feeling, stylistic understanding, and ... feeling of spontaneity." In 2019, the Review praised her 2019 piano-duo recital with

Lan-in Winnie Yang as "delightful." In 2022 Tzu-yi performed as part of two pianos and percussion in Carl Orff's Carmina Burana in Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium in New York City, the Poulenc concerto and all-Liszt recitals at national venues in Taiwan. Based in the Washington, D.C. area, she performs locally and nationally and is on faculty at the Levine School of Music. Tzu-yi holds degrees from the Paris Conservatory, the National Karlsruhe Music University in Germany, and Columbus State University. In Summer 2023, she received her DMA from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her dissertation focused on revisiting the departures of Franz Liszt and explores his spiritual reconciliation in selected piano works.

Ford Fourqurean '14 (BM) an award-winning clarinetist, electronic artist, and arts administrator based in NYC, is the Director of Concerts, Marketing, and Publicity at Stony Brook University. As the Executive Director and clarinetist of Unheard-of//Ensemble, he tours the U.S., presenting unique multimedia concerts and guest artist performances. Recognized as "a

unique force," Fourqurean has written and secured grants from various organizations, including Chamber Music America and Foundation for Contemporary Arts. He excels in production, audio, and video recording for diverse ensembles, from rock bands to classical groups. With a repertoire of over 100 works, he has collaborated with prestigious institutions, leaving a notable impact on the contemporary music scene.

Andrew Harry '15 (BM) '19 (AD) is Assistant Professor of Fine Arts at Point University where he is the Chair of the Fine Arts Department, Director of Choral Activities, and piano instructor. He serves First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange as Director of Music and organist where he leads the Chancel Choir and handbell choirs. Andrew holds the position of Music Director of the Choral Society of West Georgia, a 50-voice community chorus made of singers from the region. He also serves as the Artistic Director of the Csehy Summer School of Music in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, a precollege chamber music and large ensemble program for middle and high school students.

Alumni News (cont'd.)



■ Eder Rivera '18

Eder Rivera '18 (BM) recently won the audition for the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra LA fellowship for oboe. As an LA Fellow Mr. Rivera will also regularly work with the Inner City Youth Orchestra Los Angeles for performances and mentorship. Recently, Eder joined the Southeast Symphony and the LA Phil Composer Fellowship Program as a principal oboe for the reading and recording of new orchestral pieces by young composers under the direction of Anthony Parnter. He also performed with the New West Symphony in collaboration with the Disney Animation for their 100th Anniversary celebration. Prior to this, he has performed with the Los Angeles Opera in their production of Peleas and Melisandre by Debussy and others. Eder also joined as substitute oboe the New World Symphony for their 2023-2024 season, making his debut for the Mahler Symphony No. 6. The previous season Eder made his debuts at the Music Academy of the West where Mr. Rivera was named the David Weiss Memorial Scholarship recipient in Oboe and the Artosphere Music Festival Orchestra. Eder earned his master's degree from the Colburn School at the heart of downtown Los Angeles where he has worked with principal oboist of the San Francisco Opera, Mr. Mingjia Liu and the principal oboe of San Francisco Symphony, Mr. Eugene Izotov. Eder Rivera is an active musician with many projects in the orchestral, chamber music, and solo realms. Outside of the music stages, Eder Rivera takes a visionary role with a few projects, including the Honduras Oboe Project Education Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves the community to bring music education through the oboe in the city of San Pedro Sula, Honduras at no cost to the students. You can visit and support the project at www.hondurasoboeproject.org

his versatility. An influential author, his books on contemporary clarinet technique exemplify his passion for education. Formerly on faculty at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, Hudson holds a DMA from Northwestern University. As an Artist-Clinician for Buffet Crampon and Rovner ligatures Ambassador, he exclusively performs on Buffet clarinets. Beyond music, Hudson enjoys running, reading, playing guitar, and collecting obscure instruments.

Michael "Jerel" Johnson '13 (BM) an Ashburn, Georgia native, connects deeply with his audience through soulful music. Influenced by Stevie Wonder, Lenny Williams, and more, Jerel's musical journey began serenading the streets of Turner

orchestral settings across North America, Europe, and Africa. A noted interpreter of contemporary music, he has premiered over 100 works and serves as co-Artistic Director of Latitude 49. Hudson, with numerous accolades, has performed with major orchestras and festivals, showcasing

Renowned clarinetist and educator **Andy Hudson '10** (BM) joined Lawrence University Conservatory of Music as Associate Professor of Clarinet in Fall 2023. Praised for performances marked by "youthful vigor and mature sensitivity," Hudson's expertise spans solo, chamber, and

County, earning a McDonald's Happy Meal as payment. Formal studies at Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music followed, where Jerel honed his voice, winning competitions and immersing himself in the Popular Music Ensemble and Jazz Combo. Post-graduation, he navigated the corporate and cover band scene with groups like River City Horns and P-Funk Connection, refining his stage presence. Jerel's vocal and keyboard talents landed him performances on 'The Voice' and with the B.B. Kings All-Stars at Sea. An advocate for education, Jerel, now a music educator, values his journey and encourages students to work hard for success.

Koji Mori '10 (BM) serves as the Director of Orchestras at Harrison High School in Kennesaw, Georgia. Mr. Mori holds a Masters in Music Education degree from the University of Georgia, and an Education Specialist degree with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction from Berry College. In addition, Mr. Mori serves as an adjudicator for GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations. Under Mr. Mori's direction, the Harrison Orchestras have received superior ratings annually from the GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations. Students from the Harrison Orchestra have been members of the GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra, the GMEA All-State Orchestras, the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestras, the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Georgia Governor's Honors Program, and the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra. Mr. Mori was invited to Okayama, Japan in 2016 as a guest conductor for the city's annual "Music Party!" Music Festival. He served as a conductor for the Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps in 2009 & 2008 (World Champion). During the summers, Mr. Mori is on staff with the Music for All Summer Symposium and remains active as a leadership clinician throughout the country. His professional affiliations include American String Teachers Association, Georgia Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education. Mr. Mori lives in Kennesaw with his lovely wife

Brittany and their sweet children Kairi and Kyler.

Felix Padilla '17 (BM) was appointed Bass Trombonist of the U.S. Army West Point Band in 2019 and Bass Trombonist of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra in 2023. He earned a Master of Music from the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied with James Markey. Prior to his time in Boston, Felix studied with Bradley Palmer at Columbus State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music. Other teachers include Toby Oft, Steve Lange, Norman Bolter, Mike Roylance, and Joseph Vascik. Felix has performed concerts with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, and Boston Pops Orchestra. He was the winner of the 2018 Southeast Trombone Symposium's S.E. Shires Solo Competition, as well as the runner-up of the Orchestral Excerpts Competition. Additional honors include being a finalist for both the International Trombone Association's Edward Kleinhammer Competition and the American Trombone Workshop's Bass Trombone Division II Competition. Felix

can be heard on Columbus State University Trombone Ensemble's Full Tilt, on which he was the soloist on Brad Edwards' Memories of the Spirit. He also performed on James Markey's album Psychodelia. Felix Padilla is a performing artist for Edwards Instrument Company.

Dexter R. Smith Jr. '19 (BM) an educator from Ellenwood, Georgia, specializing in Chorus and Theatre at William Henry Spencer High School. Recently honored as the 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year, he graduated from Columbus State University in 2019 with a major in Music Education



■ Dr. Hsin-I Huang '13

Dr. Hsin-I Huang '13 (BM) a highly accomplished pianist, completed his DMA at Stony Brook University in 2019 and taught at Queens College. Having embarked on an international tour in the US and Asia, he showcases his musical prowess. In the UK, he founded the Vision Arts Foundation, set to launch with a concert featuring talented young pianists and the London Festival Chamber Orchestra, with Dr. Huang conducting. Originating from Taiwan, he made his Carnegie Hall debut at 16 and earned his doctorate in piano performance. Dr. Huang has collaborated with renowned musicians and toured with Taiwan's Evergreen Symphony Orchestra. Formerly teaching in New York, he is now based in London, teaching at the Kensington Wade School and offering private tutoring worldwide for promising students. Dr. Huang continues to captivate audiences with his virtuosity and passion for music.

Alumni News (cont’d.)

and a Vocal/Choral emphasis. As the Chorus & Theatre Director at Spencer High, his students have excelled in competitions, earned college scholarships, and made a positive impact in the community through music and theatre. Emphasizing community outreach, Mr. Smith’s Spencer GreenWave Chorus collaborates with feeder schools and has shared the stage with Foreigner, performed for the Alpha Phi Alpha Unity Award Breakfast, and been featured in Voices of the Valley Children’s Choir Rebirth & Renewal concert. A firm believer in music’s power for self-expression, Mr. Smith instills life skills through Chorus and Theatre, guided by the philosophy that “You can win, as long as you keep your head to the sky.”

Traian Sturza ’19 (BM) born in 1997 in Romania, started playing bassoon at the age of 10 in the National School of Arts in Iași, Romania with Prof. Valentin Petrescu. He also studied for many years with Constantin Barcov. In 2015, he was awarded the Ioan Goia Trophy. After graduating from the School of Arts in Iasi, Traian Sturza was awarded the Woodruff Award Scholarship and completed his bachelor’s degree at the Schwob School of Music in Columbus, Georgia, USA, where he received instruction from Dr. Ronald Wirt and Dr. Stephanie Patterson. He has taken part in numerous music festivals, such as the Britten-Pears Young Artist Program, the Brevard Music Festival, the Pacific Music Festival, and the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival. As an orchestral musician, Traian Sturza has worked with orchestras in the USA, such as the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and the LaGrange Symphony, and spent a season as co-principal bassoonist of the Malmo Opera in Sweden. As a soloist, he has performed with the Moldova Philharmonic in Iași, Romania, the LaGrange Symphony, the CSU Philharmonic, and the Brevard Music Festival Orchestra. Currently, Traian Sturza is completing his master’s degree as a student of Dag Jensen at the College of Music and Theater in Munich.

Lilya Ugay ’14 (BM) Assistant Professor of Composition at Florida State University, is a globally acclaimed composer praised

■ **Dr. Ela Tokarska**

Dr. Ela Tokarska ‘14 (BM) ‘16 (MM) ‘18 (AD) a highly accomplished violinist, violist, and pedagogue, hails from Poland, beginning her musical journey at the Arthur Rubinstein School of Music and later studying under Prof. Jadwiga Kaliszewska at the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music. With performances at prestigious venues worldwide, including Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, Tokarska has secured victories in national competitions in Poland. In 2010, she earned a Woodruff Scholarship to study under Prof. Sergiu Schwartz at Columbus State University. Her orchestral engagements include collaborations with the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and Charleston Symphony Orchestra. A dedicated chamber musician, she actively participates in events, such as the Fundraiser Concert for Ukraine. With a Doctoral Degree in Violin Performance and Pedagogy, Dr. Tokarska has served as an Adjunct Professor at LaGrange College and an Instructor of Violin at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She performs on a violin crafted by Wojciech Topa in 2016, located in Zakopane, Poland.



for her vivid and enigmatic music. Leading Florida State’s new music ensemble, Polymorphia. Ugay’s compositions, described as immediate and evocative, have been performed by prestigious ensembles worldwide, including the Nashville Symphony and Albany Symphony. She completed residencies with the Washington National Opera and American Lyric Theater, presenting operatic works at venues like John Kennedy Center Terrace Theater. Awarded by institutions like the American Academy of Arts and Letters, ASCAP, and Yale University, Ugay, a finalist for the 2019 Rome Prize, also champions the music of repressed Soviet composers. Raised in a multicultural Tatar/Korean music family in Uzbekistan, she draws inspiration from immigration, motherhood, and diversity. Currently, Ugay is working on commissions for Opera America IDEA and the Redlands Symphony. Her diverse background, musical expression, and commitment to

contemporary composition leave a profound impact.

A native of Irmo, South Carolina, Chinese American violinist **Sophie Wang ’16** (BM) joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s violin section in April 2022. She has performed in Carnegie Weill Recital Hall and soloed with the South Carolina Philharmonic and Schwob School of Music Philharmonic. Wang has won top prizes in the Beijing International Music Festival, New York International Artists, and Music Teachers National Association competitions. Prior to the BSO, she was senior assistant concertmaster of the South Carolina Philharmonic and assistant principal second violin of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, Wang has collaborated with notable artists like Roberto Díaz, Wendy Warner, and Charles Wetherbee and has worked closely with the Borromeo, Shanghai, and Brentano

string quartets. She was a Fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center and has also participated in such festivals as IMS Prussia Cove, Taos School of Music, and Sarasota Music Festival. Wang received her graduate diploma and master’s degree from New England Conservatory and a bachelor’s degree from Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University. Her principal teachers have included Malcolm Lowe, Donald Weilerstein, Sergiu Schwartz, and William Terwilliger. She currently plays on a 1738 Testore violin on generous loan from The Colburn Collection.

Allen Yueh ’17 (AD) is an American pianist and a laureate of numerous competitions, including first place at the fourth New York International Piano Competition. Yueh was a YoungARTs festival gold award winner and was distinguished by the National Foundation for the Advancement of Arts as one of 20 Presidential Scholars in the Arts in the nation. He was also twice a laureate of the Dorothy MacKenzie Artist Recognition Scholarship Award at the International Keyboard Institute and Festival. In 2017, he competed at the Music Teacher National Association competition finals and received second prize.



Elisabeth Tsai ’19 (BM) a dynamic musician, a dedicated Teaching Artist at Neighborhood Music School since 2023, she imparts her passion for music to aspiring talents. In May 2023, Elisabeth enchanted audiences at the Smithsonian Chamber Society’s Beethoven Academy, presenting Beethoven Trios Op. 11 & 97 on period instruments. Her summer tour included a captivating concert series at the International Holland Music Sessions in The Netherlands, solidifying her presence on the global stage. Elisabeth Tsai’s multifaceted journey reflects a harmonious blend of academic achievements, artistic excellence, and a profound commitment to musical education.

■ 2020s

Victoria Evans-Cash ’20 (BM) is an audio engineer from Atlanta, Georgia., who’s worked on GPB’s Lawmakers, GPB Football, and Political Rewind at Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Walter Cornwell ’21 (AD) ’23 (MM) was born in 1996 and raised in Americus, Georgia where he attended Southland Academy. In 2017 he completed his studies at Georgia College and State University



with a bachelors in piano performance. A year later he began his training with Schwob’s piano technician, Sally Phillips, and soon he was working in and around CSU until he was accepted as piano technician’s assistant. He was able to achieve an artist’s diploma in jazz piano as well as a master’s in piano performance directly after under both Henry Kramer and Esther Park. Today he is working full time as the piano technician at Schwob, Auburn University, Valdosta State University, Kennesaw Stars University, East Carolina University in Greenville, and University of North Carolina in Wilmington.

Blake Hordé ’20 (BM) a native of Marietta, Georgia, currently serves as the Associate Director of Bands at Sebastian River High School in Sebastian, Florida. In this role, he primarily conducts the Sebastian River Wind Symphony and Chamber Winds. Prior to his appointment at Sebastian River, he served as the Assistant Director of Bands at Fultondale High School in Birmingham, Alabama. Blake received a bachelor’s degree in music education from Columbus State University in. During his studies at CSU, he performed with the Schwob Wind Ensemble, Schwob Philharmonic, and Schwob Chamber Choir. He served in multiple leadership roles at Schwob, including the President of the Collegiate National Association for Music Education (CNAfME), and the Vice President of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. In 2017 and 2018, Blake performed with the Atlanta CV Drum and Bugle Corps as a Drum Major. He has served on the staff for marching bands across several states in the Southeast, and also has experience in arranging wind music for competitive productions. Blake’s professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and the Florida Bandmasters Association.

Alumni News (cont'd.)

■ Samuel Vargas Teixeira '22

Violinist Samuel Vargas Teixeira '22 (BM), has received wide recognition for his powerful artistry and awards including José Antonio Abreu Award for the Arts (2022), First Prize of the Sphinx Competition (2021), Yamaha Young Performing Artist (2019), First Prize in Atlanta's GA Philharmonic Competition (2017), and Concertmaster Ambassador of the United Nations (2014). Vargas holds the Pin Artistic Merits from "City Key of Prince George" and "Central Bank in Canada," and has performed on tours in 40 countries, collaborating with acclaimed artists like Gustavo Dudamel, Simon Rattle, Daniel Barenboim, Claudio Abbado, and Christian Vasquez. Vargas began his violinistic journey through Venezuela's El Sistema Program. In 2017 Samuel won the prestigious Woodruff Award enabling him to study with his current mentor and professor Sergiu Schwartz at the Schwob School of Music at CSU. In 2020 Samuel founded the Vargas Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that supports students in need by providing free access to music education. Samuel plays on a Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume (1860) loaned by his mentor Sergiu Schwartz.



■ Carlos Bedoya '20

Colombian guitarist Carlos Bedoya '20 (BM) described as a "complete musician," is a rising concert artist pursuing a D.M. degree at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University with Professor Petar Jankovic while serving as an Associate Instructor. Bedoya excels in diverse musical styles and actively engages in teaching, chamber music collaboration, and community enrichment. Notable performances include appearances at various prestigious venues and festivals worldwide, such as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. As a soloist, he has performed with orchestras like the Schwob Philharmonic Orchestra and the Ocean City Pops Orchestra. Bedoya is a prolific competition winner with over 20 top prizes in national and international contests.



CALLING ALL SCHWOB SCHOOL ALUMNI!

If you are a music alumnus of CSU, we would love to hear from you.

Send an email to tommey_debra@columbusstate.edu, telling us what you've been up to since we last heard from you. Please give us your name when you graduated, your current name (if different), your major, the year you graduated and the news you would like us to share in the next "Fanfare." You may also include a quality, original high-resolution photo. We look forward to hearing from you!

Noteworthy

► A Schwob legend returns to conduct, celebrate

Col. (Ret.) Hal Gibson, professor of music and director of bands from 1976-1991, returned to the Schwob School of Music April 25 to conduct the Schwob Wind Ensemble in one selection on the concert program and to celebrate his upcoming 100th birthday. Col. Gibson, who is Director of Bands emeritus, received a standing ovation from an enthusiastic audience in Legacy Hall as he was introduced and took the stage and after the performance. A reception and early birthday celebration followed the concert, where old friends and admirers had an opportunity to greet Col. and Mrs. Gibson.



*L to R: Dr. William Frye, BM '75,
Hal and Marie Gibson*



*Dr. George Corradino and friends greet
the Gibsons*



*Front row: Hal and Marie Gibson
Back row: Rex Whiddon and Meg Schley*

► 25th annual guitar symposium a success

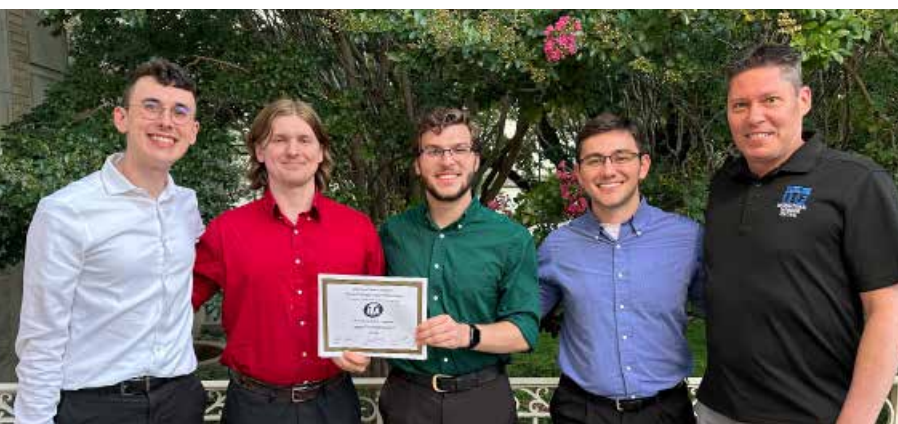
The 25th annual guitar symposium was held in February at the Schwob School of Music. This popular annual event brings together guitarists from around the world for a two-day festival featuring concerts, masterclasses, lectures and competitions with divisions for middle-school through professional levels. Featured artists included Pablo Garibay, Adam Holzman, Li & Zohn, David Russell, Patrick Lui, Newman and Oltman, and Steven Walter.



Andrew Zohn and Erdong Li

◀ Schwob students make us proud at national and international trombone workshops

Elijah Low won the National Solo Competition Division I Bass Trombone at the American Trombone Workshop held in March in Washington, D.C. This workshop is one of the world's largest annual events for trombone musicians. The Schwob Legacy Trombone Quartet won the National Trombone Quartet competition based on their recorded submission and also played in the Winners Recital. Graduating senior Austin Murray was a finalist in Division 2 of the National Solo Competition. The performance year ended on the highest of notes for the Legacy Quartet as it won the International Trombone Association quartet competition at the International Trombone Festival in June in Fort Worth, Texas. Congratulations, all!



L to R: Drew Robertson, Wheaton Wills, Austin Murray, Anthony Cangemi, and Bradley Palmer, D.M., Professor of Trombone, Coordinator of Brass Studies

► Reception honoring Joseph Golden's retirement

Current and former students and faculty, along with friends and community leaders, celebrated with Joseph Golden at his retirement reception following the Schwob Philharmonic concert on April 28 at RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. Best wishes, Professor Golden!



The entire Schwob School Piano Studio, with Esther Park and Joseph Golden at his retirement celebration.



TOP: L to R - Bobsie Swift, Rex Whiddon, Scott Harris, Sergiu Schwartz, Susan Hoskins • BOTTOM LEFT: L to R - Enluis Montes Olivar, Joseph Golden, Paul Hostetter • BOTTOM RIGHT - L to R: Comer and Helen Hobbs, Joseph Golden



Faculty News

Sara Fruehe



During 2023-2024, Fruehe enjoyed an active first year as a new faculty member of the Schwob School of Music. Highlights include multiple performances with the Schwob faculty-artist ensemble Off-Broadway Trio, co-presenting a lecture with Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz at the 2024 Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Athens, Georgia, performing with Columbus, LaGrange, and Owensboro (Kentucky) symphony orchestras, and commissioning a new work for reed trio to be premiered in November at the 2024 College Music Society National Conference in Washington, D.C.

Joe Girard



Dr. Joe Girard has been busy touring as tenor saxophonist in the Sinta Quartet during the 2023-24 season, having performed and taught in Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, South

Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. In December, the Sinta Quartet released its third album, Sinta Quartet Plays Beethoven, on the Bright Shiny Things record label. Cultural Attaché's review states "Their performances give a richness and depth that is uniquely satisfying ..." All of Sinta Quartet's albums can be enjoyed on all streaming platforms. If you're interested in a physical copy, let Dr. Girard know!

Joseph Golden



Joseph Golden retired after nearly 40 years at the Schwob School of Music (see feature article on page 19). He also was appointed as a member of the National Taskforce for Finances of the American Guild of Organists.

David Hahn



David Hahn is the Paul S. and Jean R. Amos Distinguished Chair in Music and

Director of Choral Activities. Recently, he commissioned new works by Han Lash and Michael Gilbertson, premiered by the Schwob Singers. Additionally, the Schwob Singers performed at the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO) National Conference in Atlanta in November 2023 in addition to performing at Symphony Hall. Dr. Hahn has also hosted several guest artist residencies for Dr. William Weinert (Eastman School of Music), William Langley (Atlanta Symphony Orchestra), Albert Lee (Yale), and Jocelyn Hagen (composer). He was recently appointed to the National Board of the National Collegiate Choral Organization in addition to the Alumni Board of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance at the University of Michigan.

Paul Hostetter



This spring Paul Hostetter led masterclasses at Arizona State University, conducted the Florida Lakes Symphony in a subscription set, conducted a performance of music by Chen Yi and Zhou Long at Notre Dame University, recorded Ms. Yi's Concerto for Viola and Chamber Winds, served as a clinician for Music in the Parks, and conducted the Symphony in the Sand concert at Callaway Gardens. His student Enluis Montes Olivar was named as the Associate Conductor of the Simon Bolivar Orchestra and also appeared with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra. He took the Schwob Philharmonic on a regional tour, ran the Music Under the Dome series, planned Kaleidoscope, and ran the Schwob Concerto Competition.

Faculty News

Luca Lombardi



Dr. Lombardi has demonstrated a multifaceted engagement in professional activities that reflect his expertise and dedication. From conducting masterclasses at the University of Florida to orchestrating the highly acclaimed CSU Bass Day, Dr. Lombardi’s commitment to nurturing talent is evident. Teaching at the renowned 38th Festival Internacional De Inverno Da UFMS in Vale Veneto, Brazil, provided him with an enriching opportunity to connect with students from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, Dr. Lombardi has showcased his musical proficiency through faculty recitals and dynamic performances of jazz and classical music at Columbus venues such as The Living Room and Spring Harbor at Green Island. His guest recitals at prestigious institutions like the University of Florida and collaborative performances with students in local art galleries underscore his unwavering dedication to musical excellence and community involvement.

Andrée Martin

Dedicated to offering wellness opportunities for musicians both within the Schwob School of Music and throughout the region, Andrée taught cohorts of the 8-week Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction course for Schwob students, an Honors Enrichment course in meditation, and a weekend Body Mapping Course where Schwob students were joined by professional musicians from around the country. She was a judge for the 2024 National MTNA Competition and is president of the Atlanta Flute Club,



which most recently hosted guest artist Juilliard School faculty member Valerie Coleman. Highlights of current and alumni student successes include acceptances to the prestigious Manhattan School of Music Contemporary Performance Program, the Académie Orford Musique, and a position with The Marine Band San Diego.

Joshua May



Dr. Joshua May, Associate Professor of Voice & Director of Opera Activities, has recently been elected as the Vice-President of Regions for the National Opera Association. This spring, Dr. May and Dr. Esther Park collaborated on a recital and masterclass series as part of their guest artist residency at the University of Florida. Dr. May also served as a guest artist at the Georgia Thespian Conference (THESCON), which saw over 5,500 students in Columbus. This summer, Dr. May will direct Così fan tutte at the Festival of International Opera in Urbania, Italy.

Katrin Meidell



Katrin Meidell, Associate Professor of Viola at the Schwob School of Music, performed a Salon at Six at the Woodruff Ilges House in February 2024, just two weeks after performing her faculty recital in Legacy Hall. She hosted a successful Viola Day in October 2023 that brought students from Georgia and Alabama to the beautiful Schwob campus. In September 2023, she performed with the world-renowned Borromeo String Quartet in Legacy Hall, and was instrumental in organizing the Quarter’s residency at Schwob. Her student, Jalin Graham, won first prize in the 2023 European Music Competition, and has been accepted for Master’s study at both the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music and Eastman, being awarded graduate assistantships at both institutions. Additional graduating violist, Angie Bolívar-Alfonso, has been accepted for doctoral study at the University of Florida and the Frost School of Music, Miami University, being awarded teaching assistantships at both institutions.

Lisa Oberlander

Recent performances of clarinetist Dr. Lisa Oberlander include Here at Schwob with her colleagues (Mozart trio, Viet Cuong’s Electric Aroma, Dohnanyi’s Sextet), as a headliner at Atlanta Clarinet Day, and for main campus colleagues at the Faculty Research Celebration, where she played Bach. She was especially proud to perform at the University of Dayton in February 2024 with Schwob alumnus Dr. Mark Kleine (BM Performance, 2006), the clarinet professor at UD. In April



she performed in a quartet with three Schwob clarinet alumni celebrating Robert Spring’s retirement from Arizona State, and she was honored for her 25 years of service in a special wind ensemble performance at Schwob on April 25.

Bradley Palmer



The Schwob Trombone Ensemble visited Seoul, South Korea in January 2024 to attend the Korean Trombone Symposium where they performed a concert and shared a joint concert with the Korean Trombone Choir. Current Master’s student Christopher Bassett won the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra bass trombone audition, and recent alumnus Evan Williams won the National Symphony Orchestra assistant principal audition. Mark your calendars for March 10, 2025 when New York Philharmonic principal trombonist Joseph Alessi returns to Legacy Hall to perform Chick Corea’s Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra with the Schwob

Philharmonic. The performance will be part of a celebration of Dr. Bradley Palmer’s 25th year of leading and developing the Schwob Trombone Studio and Trombone Ensemble.

Sergiu Schwartz



Solo and chamber performances as invited artist faculty in international music festivals included Salzburg-Mozarteum summer academy, Montecito, California and Bowdoin, Maine summer festivals, and Red Rocks winter festival in Arizona. Other activities have included performance and masterclass-in-residency at the Virginia Tech University music department and a masterclass at William Pu Music Academy in Atlanta. Schwartz was also invited to judge the “Ronald Sachs International String Competition” in Wilmington, NC. He performed as guest artist in “Temple Chamber players” series in Atlanta, a performance attended by Joyce and Henry Schwob together with their family.

Sue Tomkiewicz

The Off Broadway Trio has been busy this year with the creation of a video performance for Reynolds Plantation at Lake Oconee and two recitals – one featuring music of living female composers, the second featuring composers born in 1950 or later. In collaboration with fellow double-reed faculty member, Dr. Sara Fruehe, they presented “Demystifying the Double Reeds” at the 2024 GMEA Conference. They plan to continue this mission of furnishing middle and high school band directors with the skills



necessary to foster a culture of strong oboists and bassoonists into the next year. In addition, she has been active with the Columbus Symphony and will finish out the season as co-director of the Schwob Summer Music Festival this June, spending a week with high-school music students in an intensive music-making experience right here at Schwob.

Paul Vaillancourt



Dr. Vaillancourt was in residence at Vanderbilt University last January as conductor for the contemporary ensemble-in-residence, the Zohn Collective. The group gave masterclasses and performed works by Eastman School of Music faculty Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon. The ensemble was also in residence at the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Dusseldorf, Germany in May, as the featured group for the festival of New Music. In addition to works by Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, the group performed and recorded student compositions

Faculty News (cont'd.)

and toured in the area. Dr. Vaillancourt also performed at the New Music Miami Festival as part of the Hennings-Vaillancourt guitar and percussion duo in April. He performed regularly throughout the year with the Atlanta and Columbus Symphony orchestras.

Reba Wissner



Dr. Reba Wissner was recently awarded a contract from Routledge for her sixth book, “Universal Design for Learning in Music History Classes: A Teacher’s Guide.” Her fifth book, “David Lynch: Sonic Style,” was

scheduled to be published by Routledge on April 16. This spring, she was promoted early to Associate Professor of Musicology (without tenure), effective August 2024.

Andrew Zohn



Guitarist Andrew Zohn has been active in performance as part of the Li & Zohn duo with guitarist Erdong Li including performances in Texas, New England, and the Carolinas. He serves as Artistic Director of the Solstice Guitar Symposium in Connecticut, and serves on the

performing faculty of the ECU Summer Guitar Workshop and Brevard Music Festival in North Carolina, the Borguitar Festival (Italy) and Camino Artes Festival (Spain). His publication of “30 Classical Miniatures” was recently released through Les Productions d’Oz (Canada), and his original composition “Prelude and Fugue in c#” was recently commissioned, recorded, and released by The Kossler Duo.



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*Esther Park, piano, and Sergiu Schwartz, violin
with guest artists Josiah Coe, viola, and Roe Harran, cello
opening the spring semester with performances of Faure
and Brahms piano quartets*

