

## Greetings from Cullowhee

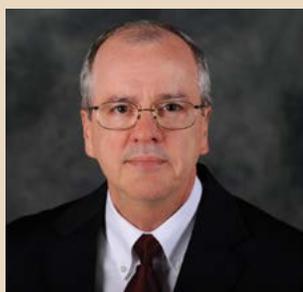
*"Change is the only constant."*

*"Life comes at you fast."*

*I start this greeting with two quotes - the first from the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, the second from a Nationwide Insurance commercial and they seem to sum up recent events at WCU and the School of Music. After serving as the associate dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts for the last seven years, I am stepping into the role of director of the School of Music. I am honored and humbled to assume this responsibility after working with two outstanding leaders over the last three decades, Dr. Robert Kehrberg and Dr. Will Peebles.*

*Dr. Peebles is returning to the faculty in the School of Music after a decade of exemplary leadership; first as department head and then as the*

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## Artist-in-Residence Program to Feature Orchestral and Choral Masterpieces

The School of Music's Artist-in-Residence Program brings professional string musicians from the Asheville Symphony Orchestra to perform orchestral masterworks and chamber music with WCU's woodwind, brass and percussion students. The program also supports hiring strings for choral programs, small operas, chamber music with faculty, or even a live radio show! With the establishment of a permanent fund, WCU now has professional-level orchestral and string programs at the university on a continuing basis. Students will perform major works of the orchestral repertoire with professional players, in addition to chamber music and orchestral accompaniments to choral and operatic works.

Bringing live orchestral music to campus adds an exciting dimension to the School of Music's current concert series, which numbers more than 150 free concerts per year, including faculty, guest artist and student recitals, ensemble concerts and performances of the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band.

## 2014-15 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, Sept. 23**, 7:30 p.m. in the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. Maestro Daniel Meyer conducting: Rossini, *Barber of Seville Overture*; Telemann, *Sonata de Concert*, with Dr. Brad Ulrich, trumpet; Holst, *St. Paul's Suite*; and Haydn, *Symphony No. 100 "Military."*

**Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015**, 7:30 p.m. in Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. Daniel Meyer conducting: Weber, *Overture to Der Freischütz*; some famous operatic arias featuring Dr. William Martin, tenor; and Tchaikovsky, *Symphony No. 4*.

**Thursday, Feb. 26**, 7:30 p.m. in BAC. Dr. Bruce Frazier conducting the Live Radio Show: *Robin Hood* with original music composed by Dr. Frazier, along with a pre-show performance of orchestral music.

**Sunday, March 29**, 3 p.m. in BAC. Vaughan Williams: music for chorus and orchestra conducted by Dr. Michael Lancaster.

For more information, please visit the School of Music's webpage: [music.wcu.edu](http://music.wcu.edu) or call the department office at 828.227.7242.

# 2014 Pride of the Mountains Marching Band Takes It To The Streets Of New York!

The students and staff of the WCU Pride of the Mountains Marching Band are proud to present their 2014 production entitled, "Street Beatz." A leadership team, comprised of over 90 students, have planned, recruited and trained the band in an effort to maintain the traditions of the program while elevating musical and visual expectations. With freshmen membership numbering over 200 and an incredibly high percentage of veteran members returning, the 2014 marching band totals 505 students and will continue to set performance standards, while pushing the envelope for innovation and entertainment.

The production is designed and implemented by the Director David Starnes and Associate Directors Matt Henley and Jon Henson. Musical arrangements are by Robert W. Smith and drill design is by Michael Gaines. Both of these gentlemen are internationally recognized for their contribution to the pageantry arts and are icons in the world of marching band and drum corps. With the reputation the Pride of the Mountains enjoys nationally, these gentlemen are prime contributors to the entertainment and excitement centered upon this year's production.

In November of 2014, the Pride of the Mountains will travel to New York City to perform in the 88th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. In conceptualizing this year's halftime production, we wanted to take our membership and audience on a tour of "The Big Apple" even before the mountains arrive at Macy's.

"Street Beatz" is comprised of four separate sections with each representing a facet of New York City. The band will enter the field in a rush hour traffic environment, as members head to work in crowded streets of the city. Our opening melody pays homage to "the city that never sleeps" with the Alicia Keys favorite, "Empire State of Mind." Our musical travelogue of NYC begins with "99 Red Balloons" by Nena



that will serve as our eventual arrival at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade where red balloons and high-flying cartoon characters have become the signature of the parade. Fans of Green Day and the Doobie Brothers will recognize their signature hits including "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" and "Takin' It To The Streets," as we conclude our departure from uptown Manhattan.

Our next stop occurs in Greenwich Village where some of the most famous jazz musicians in the world have performed. After opening with Billy Joel's ever-popular "New York State of Mind" we will explore the urban soul of "The Village" with Flo Rida's "How I Feel," featuring an iconic rap that characterizes the heartbeat of today's music. This section concludes with an exciting musical marriage of "New York State of Mind" and "Harlem Nocturne" through the musical craftsmanship of Robert W. Smith.

Audience members may want to remain in The Village, but our entourage must move further downtown to our next destination, Times Square! Here we will experience the magic that includes lights, music and energy that is sure to have everyone's adrenaline pumping. Our "What in the

world will they do next?" percussion and rhythm sections will amplify minds with a sensory overload of lights, sound and a glimpse of street musicians that will not be forgotten. Look for animated drill that will literally "show" you our "beatz." Music of DJ Snake, Yellow Claw, and Lil' John make up the collage of craziness that characterizes this stop along our city tour.

Our entire journey through the streets of New York has led us to one of the most recognizable streets in the world, 34th Street, the home of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. We have arrived! In a parade-like environment, the band will perform My Chemical Romance's "Welcome to the Black Parade," preparing for an experience unlike any audience has seen or heard. Is the suspense too much to handle? What will happen next will make other marching bands "green" with envy! In the words of NBC's Al Roker, "Let's Have A Parade!"

Enjoy the 2014 "Pride of the Mountains" production of "Street Beatz." No one says it better than vocalist Alicia Keys: "These streets will make you feel brand new, big lights will inspire you, let's hear it for New York, New York, New York!"



## WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT TO FEATURE HINDEMITH SYMPHONY

The WCU Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. John T. West, will present a concert on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. The concert will be the ensemble's first performance of the 2014-15 academic year.

The 52-member ensemble will perform a varied program of original wind music featuring one of the greatest masterworks written for band, Paul Hindemith's *Symphony in Bb*. This monumental work was composed in 1951 for the U.S. Army Band and is considered to be one of the

top 10 most important works for the concert band.

The program will also feature another important contemporary work for band, *Trittico* by the Czech composer Vaclav Nelhybel. Composed in 1965, *Trittico* is a powerful and intense work in three movements. Also on the program is the more recent *Aerial Fantasy* by Michael Mogensen, written for the U.S. Air Force Band.

Two additional pieces will complete the program. The first is *Elegy* by John Barnes

Chance, a beautiful and haunting piece in a somber style befitting the title. It will be conducted by graduate assistant conductor, Michael Tanguay. Finally, the band will perform the Norwegian march *D.R.III's Honnørmarsj* by Erling Mostad. The unusual title refers to the Third Dragoon Regiment of the Norwegian Army for whom it was composed. This will be the first performance of a newly edited version of the march by conductor West.

The Wind Ensemble is planning its spring concert tour, Wednesday-Friday, March 4-6, 2015.

## WCU HOSTS ALL-DISTRICT BAND

The WCU School of Music and Director of Bands Dr. John West will again host the western regional All-District Band on February 13 & 14, 2015. This event involves over 350 middle and high school band musicians from throughout western North Carolina. These students are selected for participation through a rigorous audition process and spend two days at WCU rehearsing with guest clinicians. They present a final concert on Saturday afternoon as the concluding event to the clinic.

The clinicians for this year are: Mr. Phillip Riggs, Band Director, North Carolina School for Science and Math, Durham, NC, conducting the Middle School Symphonic Band; Ms. Barbara Poole, East Flat Rock Middle School, conducting the Middle School Concert Band; and Mr. Scott Rush, Director of Fine Arts

for Dorchester District II (SC) and former Director of Bands, Wando High School, Mt. Pleasant, SC, conducting the 9th & 10th grade band. The clinician for the 11th & 12th grade band is yet to be determined.

As part of the clinic, the students will have the opportunity to hear performances from the WCU Wind Ensemble and the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet. All of the rehearsals and performances in the clinic take place on the WCU campus in Cullowhee at either the Bardo Arts Center or the Coulter Music Building.

For more information contact the School of Music at (828) 227-7242.



## JAZZ ENSEMBLE HOSTS RENOWNED ARTISTS

The WCU Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Pavel Wlosok, is planning two outstanding events this year. The fall concert, scheduled for Wednesday November 19 in the Coulter Recital Hall, will feature Grammy Award winning bari-saxophonist Aaron Lington. Lington performs with the Pacific

Mambo Orchestra, and was a classmate of Pavel Wlosok at the University of North Texas.

The Annual Jazz Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2015. This event will feature world-renowned soloists and clinics, faculty jazz artists, and student ensembles.

The 2014-15 academic year promises to be a fine year for the choral program. We are drawing students from an ever-widening area within N.C. as well as out of state. We experienced a large influx of very talented freshmen this fall. The Fall Choral Concert will take place Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Coulter Recital Hall on campus. Featured ensembles will be the University Chorus, Early Music Ensemble and Concert Choir.

We have added a new concert this year – the Early Music Concert – on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Coulter Recital Hall. This concert will feature several soloists and ensembles from the School of Music. The centerpiece of the program will be the Early Music Ensemble,

which will sing Renaissance madrigals and chansons with recorders and lute, as well as two Baroque sacred pieces with organ. The evening will also include performances by a recorder/shawm consort, a lutenist, a harpsichordist, a flutist playing Baroque (wooden) flute and even a dancer or two, offering interpretations of Renaissance/Early Baroque dance movements.

The Sounds of the Season will take place on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3:00 p.m. in the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. Featured choral ensembles will be the University Chorus, Concert Choir and Early Music Ensemble.

The Winter Choral Concert will offer a change of pace this year. It will be Sunday,

March 29, at 3:00 p.m. in the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. The repertoire will be two choral/orchestral works: *Dona nobis pacem* and *Serenade to Music* by the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. The orchestra will be comprised of string players from the Asheville Symphony Orchestra (funded by the Artist-in-Residence program) and student woodwind, brass and percussion players from the School of Music. The featured choral ensembles will be the University Chorus, Concert Choir and Western Carolina Community Chorus.

The Spring Choral Concert, featuring the University Chorus and Concert Choir, will be Thursday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Coulter Recital Hall.

## Fall Choral Tour October 23-24

The Concert Choir and Early Music Ensemble travel to Asheville and Hillsborough in October for the Annual Fall Choral Tour. They will sing at Cedar Ridge High School, among others, and will have a

special treat singing on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the St. Lawrence Basilica in downtown Asheville. The Basilica was built near the turn of the 20th century from stone and tile, and has the largest unsupported oval

dome in North America. The acoustics are remarkable! The performance is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

The tour repertoire for the Concert Choir includes such pieces as “Warum,” composed for chorus and piano by Brahms, a movement from a Mass by Palestrina, a sacred chorus by the Russian composer Chesnokov, a setting of the Scottish folk song “O my Love is like a Red, Red Rose” by Simon Carrington, founding member of the King’s Singers, and the spiritual “I Can Tell the World” arranged by Moses Hogan, among other pieces.

The Early Music Ensemble will be singing Renaissance madrigals and chansons by Thomas Morley, Claudio Monteverdi, Guillaume Costeley and John Dowland as well as sacred Baroque pieces by Maurice Greene and Giovanni Legrenzi. The graduate assistant for both choirs is Dillon Ingle, a master’s student in instrumental music education.

The post-tour concert will be Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Coulter Recital Hall. Please join us!



## CONCERT CHOIR PERFORMS AT PRESTIGIOUS EVENTS

The WCU Concert Choir has been invited to sing at two of the most prestigious events for choral ensembles in the state. On Friday, September 19, the choir will sing at the fall conference of the N.C. Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. This will take place at 1:45 p.m. in the Belk Theater in Robinson Hall on the campus of UNC Charlotte. In attendance will be many of the finest choral directors in our state.

The second special performance will take place on the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 10, during the fall conference of the N.C. Music Educators Association. The concert will be in the Stevens Concert Hall in downtown Winston-Salem. Most music educators in the state attend this conference each November.

The Concert Choir was also invited to join the Asheville Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in a performance of Handel's oratorio *Alexander's Feast*, Saturday, April 18, 8:00 p.m. in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in Asheville, NC.

## CHORAL CLINIC SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER

On Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., the School of Music will host the WCU High School Choral Clinic. The event will involve high school choral students from throughout Western North Carolina, participating in a variety of clinics and performances. Throughout the day the students will have an opportunity to hear WCU faculty vocal soloists. The day will culminate in a large choir performance involving the participating high school students and members of the WCU Concert Choir, all under the direction of Dr. Michael Lancaster. It is scheduled for 5 p.m. in the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center.

### Greetings from Cullowhee *(Continued from cover)*

*director of the School of Music. The students in the School will benefit from his award-winning teaching style (I don't use that term lightly, as he was the Board of Governors Teaching Award recipient for all of WCU in 2008!) but he will also continue to assist in many of the operations of the School of Music.*

*Dr. Kehrberg will also be re-joining the music faculty after ten years of leadership in the role of dean - first as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and then as the founding dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts. Among his many signature accomplishments during his tenure as dean was the founding of the "Friends of the Arts" organization which has blossomed into a highly effective fundraising and support unit for all of the Arts schools on campus.*

*I hope that all music students, current or alumni, will take the time to express their thanks to these two fine gentlemen for their dedication to teaching, advising, and leading at WCU, and in the art of music as a whole.*

*As always, the beginning of fall semester is a busy and exciting time at WCU. As I write this, we have already seen several big events come to fruition. The Friends of the Arts kickoff - "Arts Alive at 125" took place on September 2nd and featured the Catamount Singers and Electric Soul under the direction of Bruce Frazier and Jon Henson. It was a huge success and has already resulted in heightened interest in the FOA organization.*

*Another highlight was the first "Artist in Residence" Orchestra concert on September 23rd, featuring strings from the Asheville Symphony performing alongside wind and percussion students from the School of Music. The music students got to work with Daniel Meyer, conductor of the Asheville Symphony, in an outstanding performance of music by Rossini, Holst, and Haydn.*

*The Pride of the Mountains Marching Band is once again entertaining crowds at football games and exhibitions with another amazing field show. They are also finalizing their preparations for their upcoming performance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. You'll read more about this huge undertaking in the newsletter but remember to tune in for the broadcast of the parade and cheer on the band!*

*Finally, we welcome two new faculty members to the School of Music: Dr. Lyn Burkett (theory and music in general studies) and Mr. Zsolt Szabo (trombone/euphonium). These wonderful new colleagues fill positions vacated when longtime faculty members Dan and Amy Cherry left us for Dan's new position at West Chester University (the other WCU!).*

*I hope all of you are doing well in your careers wherever that has taken you and that you will keep in touch and let us know about important events in your lives. For those of you who will be in attendance at the NCMEA Conference in Winston-Salem, please make sure to join us for the alumni dinner on Sunday evening.*

**John West, Director**

# Sounds of the Season

*Sunday, December 7*

Our annual Sounds of the Season scholarship fundraising concert will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. in the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. The concert features a wide range of student and faculty ensembles, including the Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, and a special appearance of the Jackson County Children's Choir led by Diane Schallock and Katee Johnson.

Tickets for the program are \$17 for adults, \$11 for seniors (individuals 60 and over) and WCU faculty and staff, and \$5 for students and children. All proceeds from the sale of tickets for this event will contribute to the WCU School of Music Scholarship Fund. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the BAC box office, call 828.227.2479 or go online to [bardoartscenter.wcu.edu](http://bardoartscenter.wcu.edu).

## Radio Show Team Earns National Award, Plans New Production



*Standing, left to right: Bruce Frazier, Don Connelly and Brian Gastle; Seated: Steve Carlisle*

The collaborative radio production of "Tarzan of the Apes" won the 2013 Award of Excellence, Long Form Radio Production Category, from the Broadcast Education Association. The award was presented in Las Vegas in April. Team members for this production include Steve Carlisle, Brian Gastle, composer Bruce Frazier and writer and producer Don Connelly.

On Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, the award-winning creative team that produced "War of the Worlds," "A Christmas Carol," "Armed Forces Radio Show," "Dracula," "Tarzan

of the Apes," and "Echoes of The Cotton Club" will present its seventh collaborative staged radio broadcast, "Robin Hood – The Legacy," featuring students, faculty and staff from the Department of Communication, the School of Music, and the School of Stage and Screen.

Don Connelly, head of the Department of Communication and the show's writer and producer, said that "Robin Hood – The Legacy" will not be the typical 20th century commercial version of Robin Hood. As he did with Dracula, Connelly went back to the first published ballads about Robin Hood that date from the mid-1300s for the story line. "All of the characters are there as well as the sword fights, robberies, good deeds, and, of course, a love story," said Connelly. "It would not be a story about Robin Hood without a few surprises and twists of fate, but we will save those for the show."

The performance will involve an ensemble of actors, singers, musicians, dancers, designers and technicians. Brenda Lilly from the School of Stage and Screen will direct the production. Music Director and Belk Endowed Professor Bruce Frazier is creating an original musical score for the performance. Karyn Tomczak will choreograph the dance numbers for the pre-show. Other Stage and Screen faculty participating in the program include Susan Brown-Strauss (costumes), Luther Jones (set design), and David Bortle (technical director).

Musical accompaniment for the program will be provided by the WCU Artist-In-Residence Orchestra. This ensemble represents a partnership with Western and the Asheville Symphony where WCU students play alongside professionals in a collaborative orchestral experience. Frazier comments, "It's a wonderful opportunity for the winds players and percussion students in the School of Music to perform with professional string players in our region." The opening of the program features symphonic masterworks played by the orchestra including Benjamin Britten's "Variations on a Theme of Purcell," also known as the "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," and William Walton's incidental music to the play "Henry V."

The Feb. 26 performance will be presented in the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m., and will be recorded for future radio broadcast.



# School of Music Initiates New Alumni and Service Awards

Two new awards have recently been initiated by the School of Music to recognize some very special individuals and alumni who have made significant contributions to the life of the WCU School of Music or to the music profession in our region and beyond.

The first award is the Distinguished Service Award. Five individuals were selected this year and honored for their outstanding and continued support of the WCU music faculty and students.

**Elsie Beaver** studied music at Western Carolina University, taught in the Cherokee public schools, worked for the Rural Education Office, and supported her late husband Maxie Beaver in all of his many roles in his long career with the School of Music. In his memory, Elsie set up a fund that supports our annual student teaching award for a graduating student in music education. For many years Elsie sang in the Community Chorus and even played in the early years of the gamelan ensemble. Even after moving to Asheville, she has continued to attend concerts and be a part of the WCU music community.

**James and Barbara Dooley** came to Cullowhee in 1969 and have been active in the musical scene on campus and in the region ever since. James was a founding member of the Asheville Symphony and the Western Carolina Civic Orchestra, taught horn and theory in the Music Department, and eventually rose to the higher administration of the university, serving for many years as Vice Chancellor. James continues, even after retirement, to play a significant role in the Western Carolina Community Chorus, which he founded in the fall of 1970. In all of these things, Barbara has been James's devoted partner and collaborator, accompanying the Community Chorus and teaching generations of Western North Carolina youngsters to play piano. James and Barbara endowed an annual teaching award for the School of Music that allows us to celebrate in a very special way the dedication and hard work of our faculty.

**William Henigbaum** came to Jackson County to retire after many years of performing in orchestras around Chicago and the Quad Cities area on the Iowa/Illinois border. After Bill's arrival, word of his expertise as a violinist and conductor quickly spread, and he was persuaded to join the Civic Orchestra. In 1993, Bill took over conducting the orchestra, a role that he continued to fulfill until the fall of 2012 - literally, the "fall" of 2012. Bill recovered from that fall and the broken hip, and he continues to play in the orchestra and attend concerts at the School of Music. Bill is absolutely amazing and an inspiration to us all.

**Bruce Plumer** is one of our behind-the-scenes supporters in the School of Music. A few years ago, Dr. Eldred Spell contacted his grade-school pal Bruce, now working at IBM, for assistance with designing a computer program to monitor our student's concert attendance. Neither one of them could have guessed the huge number of hours this project would eventually consume. Bruce cheerfully attacked the work out of the goodness of his heart, well knowing that the project would have cost many thousands of dollars if done in his official capacity with IBM. We are very grateful for Bruce's generosity in developing and maintaining this software program over the years.

The second award is the Distinguished Alumni Award: Four individuals were selected this year and honored for their significant contributions to the profession of music in our region and throughout the U.S.

**Bob Buckner** received his BSEd in Music Education from WCU in 1967. He went on to lead the Sylva-Webster High School band to national prominence, and he became a national figure in the marching band world. Returning to WCU in the 1990s, he oversaw the growth of the band into a 400-member unit with a unique student leadership program. A major recruiting force for the university, the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band was recognized with the Sudler Prize and an invitation to

perform in the 2011 Rose Bowl Parade. Now retired, Bob is still active with the band, writing shows and continuing to mentor band staff and students. Bob is an example of what it means to give back to the community, and we are grateful for all that he has done for the School of Music.

**Jacque Culpepper** received her BSEd in Music Education in 1979. Since then she has performed over 85 roles in opera and oratorio across the United States and the Caribbean. She has also performed in Europe, South America and Asia, including a very special recital in Belgium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Now teaching at Davidson College, Jacque mentors the next generation of vocal students. Jacque will return to campus in January 2015 for a special recital entitled "Appalachian Songbook," that will also include poems by WCU faculty member Kay Stripling Byer.

**Jeanne Jolly** graduated in 1997 with a BA in Music Industry. Already an accomplished performer, she broke onto the national scene as a featured vocalist for Grammy Award-winning jazz trumpeter Chris Botti. Since then she has been recognized as one of the nation's outstanding singer-songwriters. The Atlanta Music Guide said, "Damn, that Jeanne Jolly can sing. Imagine Joni Mitchell with Billy Holiday's stylings."

**Dick Kowal** received his Master of Music Education degree from Western Carolina University in 1977. He played trumpet in a variety of ensembles in our area, including the Asheville Symphony, until his duties at WCQS, our local public radio station, became too demanding. If you've ever heard him on the radio, you know that his musical tastes are truly eclectic, from old-time bluegrass music, to classical and almost anything else he comes across. Dick has played a significant role in publicizing and supporting music of all genres throughout our region.

## International Study and Performances



**Brad Ulrich** traveled to Russia October 2-15 to perform, teach, and serve as a judge. Ulrich performed with the Fortress Brass Quintet in St. Petersburg

and Moscow. The Fortress Brass Quintet is comprised of American university brass professors from five U.S. states. The members include P. Brad Ulrich, trumpet (WCU); Eric Yates, trumpet (University of Alabama); John McGuire, horn (Colorado State); Dan Cherry, trombone (West Chester University.); and Mike Dunn, tuba (University of Colorado). The ensemble performed five concerts in St. Petersburg, gave a clinic at the St. Petersburg Music Academy, and judged the first-ever brass competition as part of the American Brass Autumn Festival. Ulrich is the artistic director for this festival, which is held each October in St. Petersburg. Following the St. Petersburg events, the Fortress Brass Quintet traveled to Moscow to perform and give a clinic at the Moscow Conservatory as part of the Brass Days of Moscow Festival.



Jazz pianist **Pavel Wlosok** released a new CD, "Czechmate," on the New Port Line label, in 2013. The CD features Joel Frahm on saxophones, Steve Haines on

bass, and Bill Campbell on drums, performing mostly original compositions by Wlosok. A new trio/quartet CD is scheduled for release this December with Grammy Award-winning artist Donny McCaslin on saxophone. Wlosok's trio performed live on WCQS in Asheville, May 19. He also performed in Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic during the summer of 2014 (about 15 concerts), including a four-day tour with American saxophonist Rick Margitza. Pavel's engineered analog mix and master of Lukas Oravec's quartet CD was awarded the *Esprit Prize*, for the best jazz album of 2013 in Slovakia.



**Ian Jeffress** served as an artist-faculty member of the third annual Carolina Saxophone Camp this past June, offering lessons in solo and chamber performance and music history and theory. Jeffress is a

cofounder of the camp, which is held at Nation Ford High School in Fort Mill, S.C. Jeffress is a member of the Assembly Saxophone Quartet. This year the quartet will be premiering commissioned works by Marilyn Shrude, Kurt Issacson, Benjamin Dean Taylor and Shawn Allison. In November the quartet will be touring in Michigan and Ohio, including performances at Oakland University, Wayne State University, and on the ADJ•ective New Music concert series in Toledo. In 2015, the Assembly Quartet will perform Philip Glass's *Concerto for Saxophone Quartet* with the Warren (Mich.) Symphony in April; they will perform the Glass *Concerto* with the Florence (S.C.) Symphony in May. In July 2015 the group will perform in recital at the 17th World Saxophone Congress in Strasbourg, France. Ian will also present a solo recital at that conference.



**Shannon Thompson** was in Paris in June as one of 25 North American college professors taking part in the College Music Society's Paris Study Tour. Entitled "Paris, the Conservatoire,

and 21st-Century Teaching," this tour included sessions with music professors and administrators at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, representatives from France's professionalization program that helps professional musicians to advance their careers, and musicologists at the Sorbonne and their public school music teaching alumni. Tour members were also treated to a director's

tour of the Musée de la Musique, France's national museum of musical instruments, and a performance at the Opera Bastille by the Ballet of the National Opera of Paris. Thompson also observed final exams (concours) of graduating trumpet students. The tour provided a fascinating look at the venerable institution of the Conservatoire, the Paris music scene, and how professional musicians and music educators are adapting to the more global, modern world and changes in their audiences and funding.

Since Paris is the headquarters for the world's best clarinet and clarinet equipment manufacturers, Thompson took the opportunity to visit these institutions. She tried the latest clarinet models at the Buffet and Selmer companies, and she was treated to a private tour of the Buffet company just outside Paris where all her clarinets were manufactured. Visits to Vandoren headquarters and several smaller music shops were also included along with the usual sightseeing. Thompson said of her experience: "The man who runs the sheet music department at Vandoren turned out to be THE expert on French clarinet history who enthusiastically answered all my questions. I met every person on the assembly line at the Buffet company, and they all showed such pride in their work – work with which I am intimately familiar!"



**Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet to Tour Eastern Europe** The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, quintet in residence at WCU,

will be touring Hungary and Romania May 18-28, 2015. The ensemble will be performing in Budapest, Debrecen, Cluj Napoca, and Targu Mures. This year the SMBQ will be taking a WCU student quintet, "Bach's Five," along on the tour to perform on the programs. In addition to performing, the SMBQ will be giving brass clinics in several cities. Members of the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet are P. Bradley Ulrich, trumpet; David Ginn, trumpet; Travis Bennett, horn; Zsolt Szabo, trombone, and Mike Schallock, tuba.

# Recent Faculty Accomplishments



**Terri Armfield** published an article in the October 2014 issue of *The Instrumentalist* entitled “An Ounce of Prevention.” The article addresses the need to exercise and warm up the fingers and hands before playing one’s instrument to help prevent repetitive motion injuries and develop the necessary dexterity and flexibility needed by any instrumental performer.

Armfield and **Michael Schallock** will present a research paper entitled “Error Detection in the Music Teacher Education Curriculum: A Case for Further Study” at the 13th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, January 10-13, 2015, in Honolulu. The research relates to the teaching of ear training, particularly as it applies to student teacher education.



**Mario Gaetano** recently published five critical performance editions of Scarlatti keyboard sonatas with two different publishers. K.2, K.98, and K.548 are published by MPI Music

Productions of Asbury, N. J., and K.34 and K.36 are published by Permus International Music of Columbus, Ohio. All sonatas are transcribed for 5-octave solo marimba. His “Consortium” for trumpet, trombone and percussion was premiered at WCU last spring, and his “Alloy” for glockenspiel and piano was premiered at WCU in September. Gaetano also received an ASCAP Plus Award this year.



**Dan Gonko** spent eight weeks this summer serving as senior audio engineer at the Aspen Music Festival and School. He worked with a team of 12 audio engineers to provide sound

support and record every concert and event. In total, 180 events were recorded and 80 were broadcast on local Public Radio affiliates. The team was responsible for producing both stereo and surround mixes of every concert and a large number were live-broadcast radio programs. While at the festival, Dan had the privilege of working with such renowned artists and conductors as Robert McDuffie, Gil Shaham, Joyce Yang, the Emerson String Quartet, Steven Osborne, Robert Spano and Leonard Slatkin. Gonko gave a presentation entitled “Maintenance Considerations in Higher Education Facilities” at the Audio Engineering Society convention in Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 9-12.



As music director of the Asheville Symphony Chorus, **Michael Lancaster** will conduct the ASC with members of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra in

a performance of Schubert: *Mass in G* and Gjeilo: *Sunrise Mass*, November 8, 7:30 p.m. at Arden Presbyterian Church in Asheville. He will also prepare the ASC to sing selections from Bach: *Christmas Oratorio* for the ASO *Classical Christmas Concert*, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, Asheville. He will be conducting the ASO and ASC in a performance of “What Sweeter Music” by John Rutter during the concert. The ASC will take part in the *Asheville Amadeus Festival* by offering a “Mozart *Requiem* Sing-a-Long” in the St. Lawrence Basilica, across the street from the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, Tuesday, March 17 at 6 p.m. It will feature a small orchestra and soloists. The chorus is the audience! The ASC and ASO will also collaborate on April 18 for Handel: *Alexander’s Feast*. This concert will be at

8 p.m. in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. Lancaster is director of music at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands. In this capacity he conducts the Chancel Choir and oversees the music ministry.



**Christina Reitz** co-authored the article, “Information Literacy in Music History: Fostering Success in Teaching and Learning” to be published this fall in the *Journal of Library*

*Administration*. In addition, she authored the “Notation” entry in *Music in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Encyclopedia* and the “Country Western Music, 1970s-2013” for the *Imperialism and Expansionism in American History: A Social, Political and Cultural Encyclopedia*. Last spring, she presented at two national conferences with the following titles– “American Women Orchestras: Social and Economic Contributions in the Late Nineteenth Century” and “Urbane or Profane: The Emergence of American Women Orchestras as Urban Entertainment.”

## New Faculty



**Zsolt Szabo** joined WCU as visiting assistant professor of trombone/euphonium in the fall semester. Prior to joining the faculty at WCU, Szabo was the recipient of the prestigious

Iowa Performance Fellowship Award at The University of Iowa School of Music where he was a teaching assistant while studying for his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in trombone performance and pedagogy.

In the spring semester of 2012, Szabo was a trombone lecturer at Western Illinois University. He has also been a guest lecturer at Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan

*Continued on back cover*

## CURRENT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The following students presented research at the Undergraduate Expo held March 24-25 at WCU and at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research held in Lexington, Ky., held April 3-5, 2014:

**Justin Beebe, David Myers and Josh Blue** presented "The Harmony Initiative" (sponsored by Dr. Bruce Frazier). Justin is the founder and director of "The Harmony Initiative," a collaborative musical composition project that premiered at WCU in April. Justin wove together and orchestrated about 50 individual submissions into a single piece of music

that embodied the creativity and artistic ingenuity of all the contributors. The piece was then recorded and edited by student David Myers. Josh Blue captured the production process on film and created a cinematic to accompany the music. "The Harmony Initiative" was presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Lexington, Ky., April 3-5.

**Candace Rhodes** (sponsored by Dr. Christina Reitz) "The Female Orchestra in Auschwitz."

**Marquita Someliana-Lauer** (sponsored by Dr. Christina Reitz) "John Stainer's

Contributions to Sacred Music During the Romantic Era."

Graduate student **Joe Basile (MM C&E, '14)** will present at the national conference of the College Music Society and the Association for Technology in Music Education in St. Louis on Thursday, Oct. 30. His topic, "Ableton Oscillation," highlights the electro-acoustic capabilities of music software that integrates computer generation and manipulation with acoustic instruments in live performance. Faculty participants in the conference are Bruce Frazier and Damon Sink.

## EMPLOYMENT UPDATE OF RECENT GRADUATES

**Rachel Affron** has accepted a position as chorus and drama teacher at Bethel Middle School in Haywood County.

**Jennifer Anderson-Williams** has accepted a position as music specialist at W.D. Williams/Bell Elementary School, Asheville.

**Martin Baker** is teaching seventh- and eighth-grade technology design and innovation at Cullowhee Valley School in Cullowhee.

**Lance Barton** is the band director at Southwest Onslow High School.

**Kristin (Beesley) Bence** accepted an elementary music position at the Lincoln 27 Elementary School District in Lincoln, Ill. In addition, she will be teaching the combined sixty-eighth grade choir at Lincoln Junior High School. Bence received a MME in 2012 from Illinois State University.

**Andrew Blair** is the assistant band director at Hickory Ridge Middle and High Schools in Cabarrus County.

**Stacy Coker** has accepted a position as band director at Hilton Head Island High School in South Carolina.

**Joshua Dickens** teaches elementary music at Princeville Elementary School in Princeville.

**Toni Dworkin** teaches kindergarten-sixth grade general music, and grades 4-6 band and choir at Beach Haven Elementary in Beach Haven, N.J.

**Nick Gattis** teaches band and general music at Carmel Middle School in Charlotte.

**Alyssa Gilliken** teaches choral music at Burns High School in Cleveland County.

**Jacob Holster** is the band director at Henderson Collegiate School in Henderson.

**Sarah Hubbard** is teaching general music and chorus at Kings Creek and Oak Hill Schools in Caldwell County.

**Maddie Johnson** teaches choral music at Brevard Middle School in Brevard.

**Kevin Lampson** teaches at Lake Lure Classical Academy in Lake Lure.

**Kyle Maples** is teaching choir and band at East Rutherford High School.

**Layne Marshall** teaches elementary music at Meadowlark Elementary in Winston-Salem.

**Staci Menichelli** teaches elementary music at the Triad Math and Sciences Charter School in Greensboro.

**Victor Perez** has accepted a position as assistant band director at Dutchtown High School in Hampton, Ga.

**Julie Popelka** is the assistant band director at Bush High School in Richmond, Tex.

**Candace Rhodes** has accepted a teaching position as band director at Mitchell High School and Harris Middle School.

**Julie Ritter** teaches band and choir at Pender High School in Burgaw.

**Amy Shuford** has accepted a position as the assistant band director at Ravenwood High School in Brentwood, Tenn.

**Tabitha Stinson** teaches elementary music at Stoney Creek Elementary in Caswell County.

**Hannah West** currently is employed directing church music in New York City.

**C. J. Wilkerson** is the band director at Johnson-Williams Middle School in Berryville, Va.

**Carson Williams** has accepted a position as Band Director at Hickory High School in Hickory.

## STUDENT TEACHERS FOR FALL 2014

**Nathan Bowman**, North Henderson H.S.

**Gregory Carpenter**, West Henderson H.S.

**Claire Mayfield**, Cullowhee Valley School

**Daniel Mull**, Asheville H.S.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Hannah Austin, BM/BSED '13**, participated in the Buffet Summer Clarinet Academy in Jacksonville, Fla., where she performed and studied privately with Stanley Drucker, retired principal clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic. She is currently pursuing a MM at the University of Florida in clarinet performance.

**Chris Cox, BM '11**, completed an MM in flute performance at Louisiana State University in May 2013.

**Greg Dills, BM/BSED '12**, recently completed his MM degree in percussion performance from Appalachian State University. He currently serves as the director of marching percussion for Wake Forest University and Elon University. He is also middle school band director for Forsyth Academy and director of percussion for Reagan High School.

After completing two master's degrees from Central Michigan University (composition and orchestral conducting), **Jarrett**

**Goodchild, BM/BSED '10** has moved back to Western North Carolina to take a position as stage manager for the Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra. He was also recently appointed assistant conductor to the Hendersonville Symphony's Youth Orchestra.

**Wells Gordon, MM '09**, is now assistant professor at Husson University in Bangor, Maine. He works in the School of Communication teaching music technology and recording arts.

**Randall Harris, BM '09 MM '11**, drummer for the contemporary Christian rock band NEEDTOBREATHE, released his latest album "Rivers in the Wasteland," last April on Atlantic Records. Randall played drums and engineered 10 of the 11 recorded tracks.

**Michael Henderson '06**, was recently named Rutherford County Schools "Teacher of the Year" for 2013-14. He currently teaches at Chase High School in Forest City. He was also one of 222 quarterfinalists for the recent Music Educator Award of the Grammy Foundation.

**Renee Kerr, BA '10**, recently relocated to Charleston, S.C., to work for Audacy Creative Arts preschool, where she will help build the toddler music education program.

**Hollie (Corn) Lifshey, BSED '96**, was recently appointed to the tenure track trumpet teaching position at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga.

**David Myers, BM C&E '14**, will begin work toward his MM degree in trumpet performance at the University of Alabama this fall. As part of his scholarship, he will perform with the wind ensemble and work with the university's marching band as trumpet instructor and audio mixer. He will also serve an audio engineer in the new campus recording facility.

**Dustin Painter, BM C&E '11**, has relocated to Raleigh, where he is composing for film and video games. He still maintains his work for Fly Eye Media in Los Angeles.

**(Steven) Jake Waldrop, BM C&E '13**, was accepted to the semifinals of the National Trumpet Competition at Messiah College in Harrisburg, Penn., where he performed the Jolivet *Concertino*. Jake is currently pursuing an MM degree at Oklahoma State University where he performs in the Blackwelder Brass Quintet as part of his graduate assistantship.

## Have news to share?

Marriages, children,  
advanced degrees, new  
jobs – *we want to know!*

Please send updates, including  
new contact information, to  
**828.227.3263** or  
[gaetano@wcu.edu](mailto:gaetano@wcu.edu).

## Alumni Invited to NCMEA Reception and Celebration

The 2014 NCMEA In-Service Conference will be held at the Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, November 8-11. Seven WCU music faculty members will be giving presentations at the conference. On Saturday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m., **Damon Sink** will present a session for the music technology track on digital audio with an "Introduction to Audio and MIDI Editing in Pro Tools." **Bruce Frazier** presents "Beyond Simple Entry: Favorite Finale Tool Tutorials" on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 12 noon, and on Monday, Nov. 10, **Jon Henson** presents a general session on "Music Technology for the Marching Band." These three sessions will be presented in the main hall of the Benton Convention Center.

**Ian Jeffress, Will Peebles, Eldred Spell** and **Shannon Thompson** will present "SOUND Advice for Woodwinds," Nov. 9, at 11:30 a.m. in the South Main Hall 1 of the Benton Convention Center. They will demonstrate how to get great sounds from all your woodwind students using practical and simple techniques based on the science of sound and many years of performance and teaching.

The WCU alumni dinner will be hosted by Ms. Sheila Frizzell at Hutch and Harris Restaurant (directly across from the Stevens Center) on Sunday evening, Nov. 9, beginning at 5:30 p.m. until closing. The restaurant will be closing their doors to all other customers and WCU music alumni, faculty and students will have all dining rooms in the restaurant for this celebration of WCU's 125 years!

## New Faculty (Continued from page 9)

University, Eastern Illinois University and The Liszt Ferenc Music Academy in Budapest, Hungary, where he presented master classes and performed several recitals.

In addition to his teaching activities, Szabo maintains an active performing schedule. Since 2012, he has been the principal trombone of the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra in Chicago. Previously, Szabo was a regular member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and in 2010 he performed and toured with Pierre Boulez and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has been a substitute for the orchestra on other occasions as well.

Szabo holds a BM in trombone performance from Gheorge Dima Music Academy, an

MM from Western Illinois University, and a Performance Diploma from Roosevelt University Music Conservatory.



### Lyn Ellen Burkett

holds a Ph.D. in music theory from Indiana University and has previously taught at UNC Asheville,

SUNY Potsdam and Indiana University. An accomplished pianist and harpsichordist, she specializes in performing 20th and 21st century repertoire, especially works composed by her husband, Bryan Burkett, with whom she has enjoyed an artistic collaboration since 1985. Burkett

has presented research at national and regional conferences including the Society for American Music, Society for Music Theory, and Forum on Music and Christian Scholarship. Her scholarly work has appeared in the *Journal of the Society for American Music*, *Popular Music and Society*, and *Indiana Theory Review*, and her analytical essay on composer Ruth Crawford Seeger's "Piano Study in Mixed Accents" is included in a collection of essays entitled "Ruth Crawford Seeger's Worlds." Burkett joins the faculty of the School of Music this fall to teach courses in the liberal studies program and music theory.

## Arts Alive @ 125

Celebrating the history of the arts at Western, the Arts Alive @ 125 program on Tuesday, Sept. 2, featured performances by students and faculty from the various schools in the College of Fine and Performing Arts. Hosted by Chancellor David O. Belcher and his wife Susan Brummell Belcher and sponsored by the Friends of the Arts, the concert featured musical ensembles such as the Catamount Singers and Electric Soul, along with an ensemble of students from the Musical Theater program led by new Stage and Screen faculty member Katya Stanislavskaya. Narration and musical numbers were accompanied by slides and film clips highlighting significant art events in the university's history.

The School of Music's featured soloists included Marquita Someliana-Lauer singing "At Last," Darian Jackson on "All of Me," and Daniel Scott crooning "Can't Get Enough of Your Love, Baby." Instrumental soloists were saxophonists Nick Johannessen and Delante Randolph and guitarist Charlie Diez. The Music Theater program was featured in a performance of "Lullaby of Broadway" from their upcoming November performance of "42nd Street." Chancellor Belcher, who played



a Chopin Etude early in the program, led the finale, "Takin' It To The Streets," from the piano and was joined in turn by the various musical ensembles. The performance concluded with an appearance by students from the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band. Shane Dinan, Mary Wiedel and Susan Belcher were vocal soloists on the concluding number.

The concert was well attended and more than \$2,000 was raised for scholarships for students in the College of Fine and Performing Arts. The next big event sponsored by the Friends of the Arts will be the Gala fundraiser and auction on Friday, April 25, 2015, in the

Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. The Catamount Singers and Electric Soul, under the leadership of Bruce Frazier and Jon Henson, will be the featured musical entertainment.

We hope that you will consider joining Friends of the Arts, a group of community members committed to the support of music and the arts at Western Carolina University. Last year, the group raised over \$150 per major to support scholarships and programs. This effort has had a very positive impact on our ability to recruit highly qualified students. Please visit [friendsofthearts.wcu.edu](http://friendsofthearts.wcu.edu) for more information.