

Choral Alumni Reunion

Over 75 School of Music alumni (graduation years 1977-1987) came together in San Marcos on July 20-21 from as far away as Australia to help celebrate the retirement of former Texas State Professor of Music Dr. Kenneth Fulton (1976-1986), retiring from his current position as Sanders Alumni Professor of Choral Studies at LSU in Baton Rouge, LA. A reception at the Embassy Suites started the activities Friday night, attended by over 50 alumni. Saturday activities began with a rehearsal in the Texas State University Music Building, where the alumni learned (or relearned) a few



choral pieces. Following rehearsal, current Texas State music students who are active in the local chapter of the American Choral Directors Association provided a tour of the campus, which has changed greatly since these alumni were students in the 70's and 80's. After a relaxing afternoon reminiscing about choir tours, unforgettable memories, and checking out favorite San Marcos spots, the alumni choir performed a brief concert with Dr. Fulton at the Price Senior Center in San Marcos for a small audience of family, friends, former/retired Texas State professors, including Dr. **Arlis Hiebert** and Dr. **Robert Whalin**. Current choral faculty Dr. **Joey Martin** and Dr. **Lynn Brinckmeyer** also attended the evening activities, which ended with a banquet. Though official activities ended, quite a few floated the San Marcos River on Sunday to continue reminiscing.

Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. **Mary Ellen Cavitt** received the Everette Swinney Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award from President Denise Trauth (on left) and Senate Chair, Dr. Barbara Melzer (right) at the Fall Faculty Convocation in August. This award recognized outstanding contributions to higher education and music teaching.



Recent Faculty Activities

Todd Oxford adjudicated for the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Competition, performed multiple concerts with the Victoria Bach Festival Orchestra and Jazz Band, was faculty for the Texas State Music Camps, selected the Texas All State Saxophone Etudes, recorded an All State Etude demonstration CD, presented an All State Saxophone Clinic at the 2012 Texas Bandmasters Association Convention (San Antonio), was a soloist for multiple concerts with the Amphion Youth Choir (Austin), performed a solo recital for the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Performance Series (Austin), and completed a solo saxophone arrangement of *Fantasia Brillante on themes from Carmen* to be published by Dorn Publications, one of the world's largest publishers of saxophone chamber music.



Butch Miles was busy this summer with appearances at the Bingen Jazz Festival in Germany, a guest appearance with tenor sax star, Scott Hamilton, at a jazz festival outside Paris, and three days of recording in Switzerland with an outstanding international big band led by the great Swiss trumpeter, Dani Felber. Guest artists on the new CD (to be released soon) include American jazz artists Brad Leali (jazz saxophone professor at the University of North Texas and Count Basie alumnus) and Eric Mariantal (recording and touring saxophonist based on the west coast). Butch (2nd from right below) also performed with the Bill Allred Classic Jazz Band at the Bix Beiderbeck Jazz Festival in Davenport, IA in August.

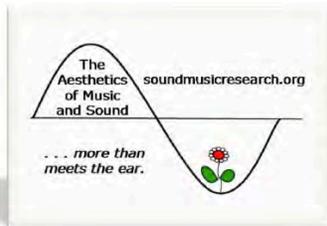




Dimitar Ninov's second piano album was published by Abundant Silence Publishing in August. Pianist Luke Rackers also recorded Ninov's piano piece *Excursion* for his album "The Art of Play". Ninov's *Allegro for orchestra* was premiered in Sofia along with his chamber piece *A Tale of the Water Nymphs*.

On September 20, Dr. **Ludim Pedroza** presented her paper "Music as *Communitas*: Ecstasy and Dogma in the Performance Aesthetics of Franz Liszt and Clara Schumann" at the Aesthetics of Music and Sound Seminar Series, hosted by the Institute for the Study of Culture at the University of Southern Denmark.

Dr. Pedroza presented her research via skype to scholars and graduate students from Denmark and various regions of the United States. Her paper consisted of an in-depth study of the performative aesthetics of Franz Liszt and Clara Schumann as viewed through the lens of anthropologist Victor Turner's theory of *Communitas*.



Dr. **Amy Simmons** was recently elected to serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, a top-tier journal in music education. Simmons will serve a 6-year term in this position.



Hank Hehmsoth has been selected as the MacDowell Colony Norton Stevens Fellow for 2012. Hehmsoth was selected for this honor based on the spirit of his work and importance to the world community of artists. In 1975, in honor of Colony fellow Aaron Copland, the Norlin Foundation established an endowment to provide The MacDowell Colony Norton Stevens Fellowship, one of the highest awards given in the United States to artists. The MacDowell Colony nurtures the arts by offering creative individuals of the highest talent an inspiring environment in which they can produce enduring works of the imagination. Hehmsoth was awarded a MacDowell Fellowship in 2011.

During the summer the Hill Country Youth Chorus, under the direction of Dr. **Lynn Brinckmeyer**, joined up with the Heart of Indiana Choir from Marian, IN to spend five days touring New York City. The choirs performed concerts in a variety of venues, including Saint John the Divine Cathedral (pictured below), the Amsterdam Place and St. Paul's Chapel.



Dr. **Martin McCain** recently performed at the 2012 Southeast Trombone Symposium at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. McCain was invited along with 29 other artist trombone teachers throughout the country to perform in the Professor's Choir. The Professor's Choir will also perform at the 2013 International Trombone Festival.



Daris Hale and **Ian Davidson** can be heard performing bassoon and oboe solos on the soundtrack of the new film, *To The Wonder*, directed by Terrence Malick, whose recent films, *Tree of Life* and *Thin Red Line*, were nominated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for Best Picture of the Year. Starring Oscar winners Ben Affleck (*Good Will Hunting*) and Javier Bardem (*No Country for Old Men*) as well as Canadian actress Rachel McAdams, *To The Wonder* was released in Europe earlier this month at the Venice Film Festival where it was in the running for the top prize, The Golden Lion. The North American release came last week at the Toronto Film Festival, a festival considered by many to be in the same league as Cannes and Sundance. U.S. distribution is scheduled for later this fall.