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School of Music Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Music

10-2022

School of Music Faculty/Staff Newsletter, October 2022

School of Music
Illinois State University

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Illinois State University School of Music Newsletter

October 2022 • Volume 12, No. 2

News and Accomplishments (in alphabetical order):

The ISU orchestras and **Dr. Glenn Block** had a busy September, performing its first full concert of the season on Sunday, September 25 with music by Wagner, Koussevitzky, K. Aduonum, and Schumann. The concert featured ISU double bass professor **Dr. Benjamin De Kock** and guest African composer Khasi Aduonum. In October, the ISU Philharmonia Strings will perform its debut concert on October 14. The ISU Symphony will go on a Chicago-land tour October 19-20, where they will perform at six high schools, visit the Art Institute, and attend a Chicago Symphony concert. The ISU Symphony is also preparing for the first orchestra/choral collaboration since before the pandemic with a performance on October 30 of the Haydn "Mass in Time of War" with the ISU Concert Choir (**Mark Grizzard**, director), ISU Civic Choir (**John Koch**, director), and faculty soloists **Michelle Vought** (soprano), **Elizabeth Thompson** (mezzo-soprano), **Justin Vickers** (tenor), and **John Koch** (baritone).

David Collier began the 2022-23 orchestra season with a Peoria

Upcoming events:

10/4/22

Faculty Recital: Mark Babbitt,
trombone

7:30 PM, Kemp and livestream

10/6/22

ISU Symphonic Winds and
Symphonic Band

8:00 PM, CPA and livestream

10/12/22

ISU Philharmonia Strings

7:00 PM, Kemp and livestream

10/13/22

Recital Celebrating LGBTQ+
History Month

7:00 PM, CPA and livestream

10/16/22

Afternoon of Brass

3:00 PM, CPA and livestream

...continued on Page 4

PHOTO ABOVE: STRING PROJECT TEACHERS REPRESENT THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT THE "DAY OF PLAY" EVENT IN NORMAL.

News and Accomplishments, cont'd:

Symphony Orchestra concert on September 24. The concert featured Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Faculty colleagues **Rachel Hockenberry** (horn), **Mark Babbitt** (principal trombone), **Ben Stiers** (percussion), and **Adriana Ransom** (principal cello) also performed with the orchestra in this program.

Benjamin De Kock has begun collaborating with Dr. Kristen Carlson (Creative Technologies) and Dr. Greg Corness (Creative Technologies) on a research project which uses motion capture and other technologies to examine bow and body mechanics in double bass playing. Dr. De Kock also performed the Koussevitzky concerto with the ISU Orchestra in late September. He is pleased to be serving as the Master Teacher for the Dolce class in String Project this year, which has nearly 40 beginners!

Geoffrey Duce is delighted to report that his student **Miguel (Qingyang) Yu** has moved to New York City, where he has commenced studying for his Master's degree in Piano Performance at the Manhattan School of Music. Congratulations, Miguel!

Earlier in September, **Tom Faux's** world music group "Robin and the Toad," performed high energy polkas in the Uptown Normal Oktoberfest, an event sponsored by the CU Credit Union, Medici restaurant, and the City of Normal.

Rachel Grimsby had an article accepted for publication in the *Journal of General Music Education*. This

article provides music educators practical advice for collaborating with special education paraprofessionals.

Phillip Hash served as an adjudicator for the Pontiac High School Marching Band Festival on Saturday, September 17. On September 29, he presented a clinic for the Eureka Middle School 8th Grade Band directed by ISU alum **Ben Wyland**. The group is currently preparing Hash's transcription of a march originally composed for winds by Beethoven. Dr. Hash also recently completed a book review of *Music Teacher as Music Producer* by Clint Randles (University of South Florida) for the *International Journal of Arts and Education*.



PHOTO: BEN DE KOCK USES MOTION CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY TO EXAMINE BOW AND BODY MOVEMENT WHILE PLAYING.

In September, **Igor Kalnin** performed as Associate Concertmaster of Sinfonia da Camera at Krannert Center in Urbana, IL. The program included Rossini's "William Tell" Overture, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, and Symphony No. 9, "The Great," by Schubert. He also

collaborated with his colleagues **Anne McNamara** (trumpet) and Lu Witzig (piano) in "Trio for Trumpet, Violin, and Piano" by Eric Ewazen, presented in Kemp Hall at ISU.



PHOTO: TOM FAUX PERFORMS WITH HIS GROUP "ROBIN AND THE TOAD."

John Koch reports that voice student Kenzie Ahlman (MM-Vocal Performance, '23) won the Choral/Vocal Ensemble Prize in the 2022 International Alliance for Women in Music New Music Competition. Her prize-winning composition *Hope is the thing with feathers* premiered at ISU recently.

Cora Swenson Lee was pleased to host Dr.'s Hilary Glen and SunMin Kim, the Gibbs Street Duo, in mid-September for a guest artist recital and cello and piano masterclasses. The recital was a delightful evening of new and rarely heard works for cello and piano. Cello students **Gita Srinivasan** and **Joe Brackmann** performed beautifully for Dr. Glen in their masterclass. The cello studio has also been busily preparing solo pieces and cello ensembles for an upcoming "Bach-toberfest" low-strings event!

Students from the ISU String Project and the Redbird Suzuki Strings, both directed by **Kate Lewis**, performed at the Uptown Normal "Day of Play" festival on Sept 24. Teachers from String Project also worked a booth at the festival for the whole event, encouraging hundreds of children to try out a violin! Earlier in September, student teachers from the ISU String Project presented a recruiting and educational outreach skit called "Strings are Out of this World" to over 600 3rd and 4th-grade students throughout Bloomington-Normal. This program, written and directed by Kate Lewis, is designed to get children excited about learning strings. As a result of the success of the presentations, the beginning (Dolce) String

Project class has close to 40 new students this fall! The ISU String Project kicked off its 21st year with the 2nd annual picnic on Sept 23. Enrollment continues to be strong, and the program hired six new undergraduate and graduate student teachers this fall.



PHOTO: STRING MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR SHELBY FICK WITH A YOUNG COMMUNITY MEMBER AT THE "DAY OF PLAY" EVENT.

On September 25, **Rose Marshack** performed Samba Chula, Capoeira Angola, and Maculelê with the Capoeira Angola Center of Illinois at the Decatur Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration 2022. She also performed along with Rick Valentin in the electronic music ensemble Salaryman at the Make Music Normal festival, held at the Connie Link Amphitheater on September 30.



PHOTO: ROSE MARSHACK (LEFT) PERFORMS AT THE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION.

In early September, **Anne McNamara** spent a week performing the solo flugelhorn chair with the Fountain City Brass Band (FCBB) in Kansas City, MO, where she performed two concerts: at Washburn University and at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Kansas. She will return to perform with FCBB two more times this fall. On September 25, Anne also performed a faculty recital at ISU featuring the Ewazen "Trio for Violin, Trumpet, and Piano" where she was joined by her colleagues **Dr. Igor Kalnin** and Lu Witzig. Her recital also included a consortium premiere of Eris DeJarnett's "go to the garden."

Thornton Miller will be presenting his paper, "State-Mandated Positivity: Music in Great-Britain's Russian-Language Journal *Angliia*" at the Fall 2022 meeting of the Midwest chapter of the American Musicological Society at Bowling Green State University on October 15.

Carl Schimmel's work "Ladle Rat Rotten Hut" was recently performed by the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble in San Francisco. The concert was voted by SF Classical Voice readers as the best new music performance of 2021-2022.

(<https://www.sfcv.org/articles/feature/audience-choice-awards-2021-2022-bay-area-winners>)

David Snyder led rehearsals and a performance with the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra (La Salle/ Peru) at the end of September along with graduate ISU horn students **Nicholas Steffenhagen** and **Daniel Castillon**. Dr. Snyder also coached and performed with a horn quartet from Normal West High School at the Connie Link Amphitheater on September 28. On September 17, Dr. Snyder adjudicated the Monticello Marching Festival. Sixteen bands from the eastern Illinois area participated in the event, including alum **Ryan Krapf** and his Danville High School band.

Mack Wood reports that the Big Red Marching Machine has been very busy this month! In the beginning of September, the marching band traveled to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to support Redbird football, and even got to join the UWM band in their 5th quarter performance. That same weekend, BRMM returned to Bloomington/Normal to represent ISU in the Labor Day parade. BRMM has recently performed their Bruno Mars and Lin-Manuel Miranda halftime shows and is already working on their next show, which will feature music from popular DreamWorks movies "How to Train Your Dragon," "Shrek 2," and "Trolls." The band has had an amazing start to the school year and is looking forward to continuing another great season!

Upcoming Events, cont'd:

10/16/22

Bach-toberfest Celebration Concert
5:00 PM, Kemp and livestream

10/18/22

Student Convocation Recital
11:00 AM, CPA and livestream

10/18/22

Guest Ensemble: the 399th Army Brass Band
7:00 PM, Kemp and livestream

10/21/22

Faculty Recital: Midori Samson, bassoon
7:30 PM, Kemp and livestream

10/25/22

Faculty Recital: Ben Stiers, percussion
8:00 PM, Kemp and livestream

10/27/22

Faculty Recital: Jillian Kouzel, oboe
7:00 PM, Kemp and livestream

10/30/22

ISU Symphony Orchestra and Choruses
present "Mass in Time of War"
3:00 PM, CPA and livestream

10/30/22

Faculty Brass Quintet Recital
6:00 PM, Kemp and livestream

11/1/22 & 11/2/22

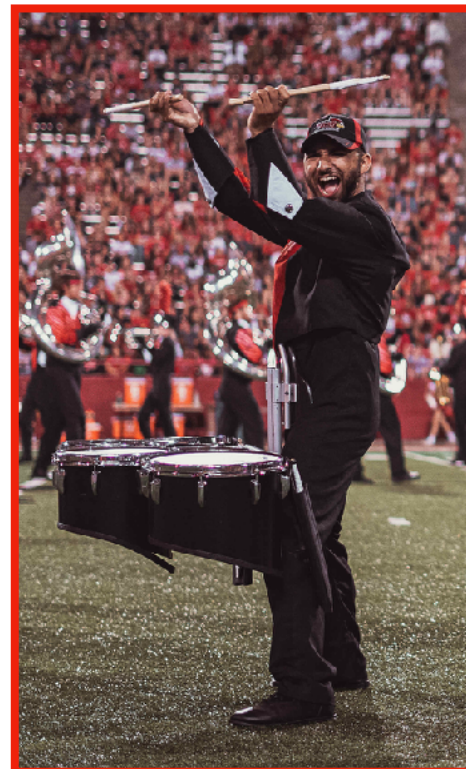
Guest Ensemble: The "Unheard of" Ensemble
8:00 PM, Kemp and livestream

11/3/22

Faculty String Quartet Recital
7:30 PM, Kemp and livestream

For more information, visit:

events.IllinoisState.edu
FineArts.IllinoisState.edu/live



**Illinois State Homecoming: Celebrating Red
October 10 - 16, 2022
The 340-member strong Big Red Marching
Machine will see you there!**

