Student Spotlight: Summer Study

Piano performance major Audrey Kaltenbach ’15 attended the Rocky Ridge Music Center Adult Piano Seminar in Estes Park, Colo. A Stoehr Summer Study Grant, dedicated to off-campus summer study for Willamette University’s advanced piano students, funded her attendance. “During the seminar, I had private lessons with artist teachers and performed in master classes and concerts,” Kaltenbach says. “The master classes, taught by a different artist each day, exposed me to a variety of teaching styles. Each evening, faculty members shared a lecture or concert. I learned so much and was continually pushed beyond my comfort zone. I grew tremendously as a musician. I loved the opportunity to practice with such focus and intensity, to make new contacts and do some thinking about my future. I am considering graduate studies after Willamette.”

Jason Pegis ’16 attended two intensive cello programs. “With help from the Willamette University music department, I attended a two-week cello school at St. Olaf hosted by professor Anna Clift, as well as a cello camp in southern France,” says Pegis. “I was one of 17 young cellists at the camp, and we all became friends. Each day included practice, lessons, master classes, lectures, technique classes and recreational events. My teachers included Eric Kutz, Bruce Uchimura, Anna Clift, Hannah Holman, Mark Summer and Astrid Schween.

“Besides the teachers, the other students really made the camp special for me. There were cellists from all over the United States, two from China and one from Argentina. The environment was beyond supportive, and everyone genuinely wanted each of their peers to succeed. It was inspiring to be around them, especially as the lack of cello majors at Willamette can be a bit isolating. The overall experience makes me proud to be a Willamette University music student.”
Welcome New Adjunct Faculty

Laura Agüero, voice
Soprano Laura Agüero is a versatile performer who has appeared as soloist in oratorio, recital, opera and concert throughout the United States. Her operatic roles include: Norina in “Don Pasquale,” Marenka in “The Bartered Bride,” Zerlina in “Don Giovanni,” First Lady in “Die Zauberflöte,” Miss Titmouse in “Too Many Sopranos” and Annina in “La Traviata.” She has performed with a number of opera companies, including the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre and the Pine Mountain Music Festival. In addition to her work on the operatic stage, Agüero is an active recitalist and soloist. Some of her oratorio and symphonic engagements have included Mozart’s “Exsultate Jubilate,” Brahms’ “Neue Liebeslieder,” Bach’s “St. John Passion” and as a soloist with the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, the Woodlands Symphony Orchestra and the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra. An active musician, Agüero has been featured on Houston KUHA Classical 91.7’s “The Front Row.” She received her master’s degree in vocal performance from Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Ann Kosanovic Brown, bassoon
Ann Kosanovic Brown has performed as a soloist with numerous orchestras in the United States, Europe and Africa. Currently principal bassoonist with the Salem Chamber Orchestra and Corvallis Symphony, she has also held principal positions with the Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra (Wash.), Natal Philharmonic Orchestra (Durban, South Africa), Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and the Camerata Salzburg. She has played principal bassoon with the Seattle Symphony, Tacoma Symphony, Eugene Symphony, Oregon Mozart Players, Northwest Chamber Orchestra and the Newport Symphony. Her teachers include Gunter Piesk, Milan Turkovicic, Kenneth Moore and Mark Eubanks. She has a BM from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and further Master of Music studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, as well as the Mozarteum in Salzburg and the Berlin Philharmonic. She was the first female bassoonist to perform with the Berlin Philharmonic, playing under the batons of Herbert Von Karajan, Zubin Mehta, Klaus Tennstadt and Sir Colin Davis.

Zach Galatis, flute
Zachariah Galatis, originally from LaGrange, New York, is the piccolo/third flute of the Oregon Symphony. First prize-winner of both the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Young Artist Piccolo Competition and the 2012 National Flute Association’s Piccolo Artist Competition, he is a rising leader in his field. A passionate teacher and clinician, he holds a private teaching studio and has been guest artist and given master classes at flute and piccolo workshops around the country. Galatis has a BM from the Crane School of Music and a MM as well as a doctorate-in-progress from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. His teachers include Marina Piccinini, Laurie Sokoloff, Emily Skala and Kenneth Andrews.

Arsen Gulua, piano and staff accompanist
Arsen Gulua holds degrees from The Juilliard School (BM), Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (MM) and the University of Oregon (DMA). His teachers have included Yoheved Kaplinsky, Edward Auer and Alexandre Dossin, as well as Shoshana Cohen, Edith Kraus and David Riley. He began studying piano at the Kharkiv Music School in his native Kharkiv, Ukraine. In 1991 he studied music composition at the Rubin Academy in Jerusalem. He has received the American-Israeli Cultural Foundation Award, Susan W. Rose piano fellowship, the William Petschek Scholarship and the Guitteau Award, Susan W. Rose piano fellowship, the American-Israeli Cultural Foundation Award, Susan W. Rose piano fellowship, the William Petschek Scholarship and the Guitteau Scholarship. Gulua has performed throughout the United States, including at the Alice Tully Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York, as well as throughout Israel and Ukraine. He has collaborated with cellist Kyril Zlotnikov and violinist Sergei Bresler, both members of the renowned Jerusalem Quartet. His wife, pianist Asya Gulua, has premiered his compositions in Lincoln Center. Gulua’s proficiency in composition and growing interest in improvisation leads him to recognize that both are an integral part of performing, and he incorporates these two elements in his teaching.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As we begin the 2014-15 academic year, there are several developments in the department that I am excited to share. First and foremost is that after an extensive national search, we appointed professor Héctor Agüero as director of University Chamber Orchestra and the Wind Ensemble. Elsewhere in this issue of the Troubadour, you will find a more complete biography of Agüero as well as some of his thoughts on the future directions of the ensembles. During the last several years, our University Chamber Orchestra has been directed by adjunct professor of cello Jason Duckles, while the Wind Ensemble has been in the hands of adjunct professor Todd Zimbelman. These two extraordinary and dedicated conductors have sustained the integrity of the ensembles through these transition years while also maintaining full-time teaching and performing responsibilities at other institutions. We are deeply grateful for their vision and service.

Another new and interesting aspect of our music program is the total revision of our Bachelor of Arts in Music degree. After our exhaustive review by the National Association of Schools of Music in 2012-13, the faculty responded by creating a program that offers students greater flexibility and opportunities to explore several paths within music, including performance, improvisation, composition and scholarship. For a complete description of the degree, see the College of Liberal Arts catalog on the university website at willamette.edu/cla/catalog/disciplines/i_p/musc/.
Awards for The Willamette Singers

Looking Forward to a Great Year

One of the highlights of this year will be a performance of Brahms’ Requiem in the spring. Our winter tour will take us to Washington and the fall will be filled with opportunities to hear our new groups.

After the Willamette Singers’ performance at the American Choral Directors Association Northwestern Division Convention in Seattle last spring, they received another national honor. Downbeat magazine’s Outstanding Performance Award went to the group for their CD “I’ll Sing for You.” Matt Sazima ’14 won the Outstanding Arranger Award, and Harris Long ’14 won Best Vocal Jazz Soloist.

The first performances by our new choirs will be on Family Weekend — Jazz Night on Friday, Oct. 10 and Classical Night on Saturday, Oct. 11. The University Chamber Orchestra, will join the choirs again this year for Christmas in Hudson Hall, Dec. 4–5. Tickets will go on sale Nov. 12.

See calendar on page 1 for details.

SALE THE DATES! Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series
2014-15 season presents two concerts in spring 2015

Anderson and Roe Piano Duo
Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.
Hudson Hall. Reserved seating.
Master Class featuring Willamette University piano duos (free and open to the public).
Tuesday, March 31, 7-9 p.m. Hudson Hall.

Ethos Percussion Group
Friday, April 17, 8 p.m., Hudson Concert Hall. General admission seating.
Residency Activities TBA

Stay tuned for more information in the Spring issue of the Troubadour!

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Salem Chamber Orchestra

The Salem Chamber Orchestra celebrates its 30th anniversary with exciting collaborations and international guest artists.

In September SCO presents Mozart’s overture to “Don Giovanni” and Sibelius’ Valse Triste from “Kuolema.” Portland native Mark Goodenberger will perform Emmanuel Séjourné’s Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra; the program ends with Beethoven’s jovial and capricious Symphony No. 2 in D Major.

In November, we join the Willamette theatre department for Mendelssohn’s incidental music to “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” See calendar on page 1 for details.

Visit www.salemchamberorchestra.org to see all 2014–15 events.

Fall Events for Master Chorus

The Willamette Master Chorus celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The 10th annual Veterans Concert, Nov. 8 and 9, is a USO-type show of popular music from the World War II era to the present. The McKay High School Concert Choir, directed by Stanford Scriven, will join the Chorus in a celebration of holiday carols from Salem composers and arrangers at concerts Dec. 13 and 14. See calendar on page 1 for details.

Access The Troubadour Online

You can now read the Troubadour online at willamette.edu/cla/music/newsletter. If you have a comment, suggestion or would like to be removed from our mailing list, contact us at troubadour@willamette.edu.
Jazz Program Visits Nepal

The Willamette University faculty jazz quintet and student quartet visited Nepal last spring for a week of concerts and workshops with the Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory. Students Sean Edging ’14, Thomas Shipley ’15, Matt Sazima ’14 and Jarrett Tracy ’15 were selected to travel to Nepal with the faculty jazz ensemble (Tyler Abbott, Ryan Biesack, Sean Flannery, James Miley and Mike Nord) during spring break. Students and faculty taught lessons, coached ensembles and performed with Nepali jazz musicians, in addition to headlining a concert with professional Nepali classical musicians presented by the U.S. Embassy to celebrate the meeting of eastern and western cultures through the arts. The final weekend featured performances at a music festival in the mountains near Tibet and bungee jumping into a 180-meter-deep canyon.

Waller Trio Competes in Chicago

Small Ensembles featured by Camerata Musica in Fundraising Concert

The Waller Trio — music majors Chloe Prendergast (violin), Jason Pegis (cello) and Sherry Liang (piano) — won both the state and regional chamber music competitions of the Music Teachers National Association last winter, and were invited to Chicago to compete in the national competition in March. This was the first time in recent history that a Willamette University instrumental chamber ensemble achieved this kind of national recognition.

In April, both the Waller Trio and the Columbia Piano Quartet performed in the Camerata Musica series at the Salem Public Library. The concert raised funds for the Music Education Assistance Project, which helps promising music students. See the calendar on page 1 for this year’s small ensembles free fall concert.

Music Technology Lab

The Ford Hall Digital Music Lab and studios were busy this summer with student creative projects. A Learning by Creating (LxC) grant from the Mellon Foundation supported music majors Rosemarie Cabaging (flute), Connor Soejoto (voice) and Danielle Nakatani (voice) in developing a performance practice using electronics to process their instruments in both free and structured improvisations. Alika Masei used a LxC grant to create a soundtrack for an anti-violence animation developed with fellow students.

Heather Kyllingmark’s Carson Undergraduate Research Grant enabled her to compose and record tracks for her short film “The Oxcart.”

Each project will be presented on campus this fall.

In addition to Willamette courses, Saturday Explorations classes for middle school students will take place in the lab this fall. The programs provide invaluable hands-on teaching experience and service learning opportunities for music education majors.

Get the Music

To order Music Department CDs visit willamette.edu/cla/music or call 503-370-6255

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