

Keeping Up with MSU Alumni (continued)

● Ben Henri, MM '12, continues as vocal music director at Grosse Pointe (Michigan) North High School. The mixed ensemble of the Pointe Chorale was recognized as a Michigan Youth Arts finalist at State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Among the Pointe Chorale's activities last year was a Skype conversation with composer Eric William Barnum.

● Zeb Highben, DMA '12, is the editor of the newly published "Augsburg Motet Book," 32 motets intended for church choirs of varying abilities. He is in his second year as director of choral activities at Muskingum College in Ohio.

● David Howard, DMA '08, was promoted to associate professor with tenure at Stephen F. Austin University last spring. He has recently joined the choral faculty at the University of Oklahoma. His article "The Dean Hussey Choral Commissions: An Annotated Guide" appeared in the February issue of the "Choral Journal."

● Trey Jacobs continues as music director of the Turtle Creek Chorale, which celebrated its 33rd season in 2012-13 with a variety of performances, including a concert with five-time Grammy award winner, Sandi Patty. During the past year he served as conductor for all-state choirs in Florida and New York and as artist-in-residence at Webster University in suburban St. Louis.

● Dwight Jilek completed his MM studies this past spring and has entered the DMA program at the University of North Texas.

● Ryan Kelly, DMA '12, is in his second year as associate director of choral activities and assistant professor of music at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. This year, he presented guest sessions for ACDA-Pennsylvania, ACDA-South Carolina, ACDA-Louisiana, Florida Music Educators Association, and Alabama Music Educators Association. Carus Verlag has accepted his edition of "Johann Friederich Fasch's Mass for 16 Voices." His article, "Artistry and Equality: How the Berlin Sing-Akademie Transformed Choral Singing," appeared in the May issue of the "Choral Journal," and two of his choral works were recently published by Augsburg Fortress Publishers.

● Andrew Kreckman, MM '10, received his DMA in choral conducting from Texas Tech University this past summer and has joined the music faculty at Wayne State University in Detroit.

● Barb Lamont completed her MM degree in the spring of 2013 and has begun doctoral studies at Texas Tech University

● Christopher Nickelson completed his MM this past summer. He continues as vocal music director at Winchester High School in suburban Boston.

● Matthew J. Olson, MM '10, completed his DMA in conducting at the University of Minnesota and currently serves as interim director of choral activities at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and as founding director of Oratory|Bach, a Minneapolis-based professional Bach Consort.

● Jonathan Palant, DMA '07, is the founding director of CREDO, an ecumenical mixed choir that toured Cuba this past June and plans to travel to Latvia, Estonia, and Finland in June 2014. He was recently appointed adjunct professor at Richland College in Dallas. He is the author of "Brothers, Sing On! Conducting the Tenor-Bass Choir," to be released by Hal Leonard this fall. He presented an interest session on working with male choirs at the ACDA national conference this past March. Most importantly, he is the proud father of Noah Mullaney Palant, who was born July 17, 2013 weighing 9 pounds and measuring 22.5 inches!

● Trent Patterson, DMA '10, will lead the Webster University Chamber Singers in performances at the Missouri Music Educators Association Conference in January and the ACDA Southwestern Division Conference in Little Rock in March 2014. The choir is featured in Charlene Archibeque's new DVD to be released by GIA Publications in 2014.

● Courtney Rowley Pelavin, MM '11, is in her seventh year as director of choirs at Ballard High School in Seattle, Washington. In March 2014 the Ballard High School Concert Choir will perform at the Northwest Division ACDA Conference.

● Ryan Person completed his MM this past summer. He continues as vocal music director at Iowa City West High School. His choir will perform at the ACDA North Central Division Conference in March 2014.

● Chris Redfean, MM '04, continues as director of choral activities at Valley City State University. Over

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the past year, he conducted several honor choirs in the state and presented at the conferences of the North Dakota Music Educators Association and the North Dakota ACDA as well as the North Dakota University System's Arts and Humanities Conference. He serves as University/College R & S chair for the state of North Dakota.

● Eric Rubinstein, MM '12, continues as vocal music director at Westhampton Beach High School on Long Island, New York. During 2012-13, his Chamber Singers were selected to perform at Carnegie Hall under the direction of Eric Whitacre and his Concert Choir commissioned a new work by London-based composer, Paul Ayers.

● Daniel Singer, MM '11, is vocal music and orchestra director at the University School in Cleveland and assistant director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus. His University School Glee Club was featured at Severance Hall in the regional premier of Robert Cohen's "Alzheimer's Stories." He led performances of the Cleveland Orchestra Chamber Chorus, the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus Chamber Ensemble, and his own University School Glee Club and Orchestra in his new work entitled "Make Big Plans."

● Sarah Stockton, MM '10, continues to lead the choirs at Grand Blanc (Michigan) High School. They regularly receive high marks at MSVMA festivals and annually join with several other high school choirs and members of the Flint Symphony Orchestra for a performance of major works (Handel's "Messiah" in 2012 and Rutter "Requiem" in 2013).

● Wes Stoner, MM '10, led the choir of Hillgrove High School in suburban Atlanta in a performance at the Georgia Music Educators Association in January 2013.

● Jason Thoms, MM '02, DMA '05, was recently promoted to associate professor of music at Concordia College-New York. Over the past six years he has embarked on nine tours with his choirs and has performed in 45 states and two Canadian provinces. This past year, he conducted the New York Lutheran Schools Choir Festival and the 100th anniversary alumni reunion choir at Concordia College-New York. He also performs as a professional chorister around the country.

● Joel Tranquilla completed his DMA in spring 2013. This past July he received the Premier's Award of Excellence

for the Arts Emerging Artist Award from the Province of Ontario, having been nominated by Lydia Adams, conductor of Toronto's Elmer Iseler Singers. He continues as instructor at the University of Windsor and artistic director of the Windsor Classical Chorale, chorus master of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, conductor of the Teutonia Chorus of Windsor, and conductor of the Windsor Community Choir. In May, he conducted the New Brunswick Youth Choir. He serves as vice president of advocacy for the Association of Canadian Choral Communities.

● Katie Wolfe Tiefel, MM '08, serves as music coordinator and director of the adult and children's choirs at Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. In the summer of 2014, she will guest conduct the festival concert of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod National Conference on Music, Worship, and the Arts and present sessions on score study and rehearsal technique. She continues to serve as a consultant on the WELS School of Worship Enrichment team - a group that teaches and advises Lutheran congregations who wish to improve their worship and music. She is a mom to a two-year old, Hannah, and a six-month old, Nora.

● Brandon Ulrich will complete his DMA during fall 2013 and continues as vocal music director at Stony Creek High School in Rochester Hills. He won second place in the Ars Nova Emerging Composers Competition for his choral composition "I Have Loved Hours at Sea."

● Sean Vogt, DMA '05, was one of four guest organists to perform a 'prelude' concert at the Meyerson Symphony Center during last spring's ACDA national conference. He was recently named choirmaster at the Cathedral of Saint Paul (Minnesota). He continues as artistic director for the Apollo Male Chorus, which will be performing at Carnegie Hall in January as part of a weekend celebration of Martin Luther King.

● Brent Wells, DMA '07, sang with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale for their 2012 Holiday Season and appeared as soloist with the Boise Baroque Orchestra. He continues as director of choral activities at the College of Idaho.

● Kyle Zeuch completed his MM degree in the spring of 2013 and has been named director of the MSU Children's Choirs. He also began doctoral studies at MSU this fall.

Choral Activities at MSU

Fall 2013

Dear MSU Choral Conducting Alum,

Welcome to our annual choral newsletter—our yearly reminder that you are still a part of the MSU choral family and an opportunity for you to find out what's happening with your fellow Spartan choral alums.

We have a strong group of new and continuing graduate students in choral conducting. We have several new DMA students. Megan Boyd graduated from Boston University and taught in North Carolina before coming to MSU for her master's degree, which she completed in 2012. Elizabeth Hermanson taught for a number of years in Minnesota, and just completed her master's degree at Westminster Choir College. Andrew Minear holds undergraduate and master's degrees from Florida State University and has been teaching in the Orlando area. Brandon Williams is a graduate of Western Illinois University and the University of Illinois. He previously taught in the public schools of Ladue in suburban St. Louis. Kyle Zeuch graduated from Capitol University

and taught in Texas before coming to MSU for his master's degree, which he completed this past spring. Our new master's students are William Chung, a recent graduate of the University of Hong Kong, where he also conducted the Hong Kong Treble Choir, the Hong Kong Festival Voices, and the award-winning The Greeners' Sound; J. Christine Le, who received her bachelor's degree from Centenary College and then taught in Shreveport, Louisiana; and Hae Won Jang, who is completing her DMA in piano and working on a master's degree in choral conducting.

Our summer master's program continues to attract students throughout the country. This summer we welcomed Kathryn Mosiman, a recent graduate of Iowa State University who teaches at East Sac County High School in Lake View, Iowa; Brigitte Smith, a graduate of Texas State University now teaching at Goodnight Middle School in San Marcos, Texas; and Kim Evans, a graduate of Missouri Western State University, who is choral director at Truman High School in Independence, Missouri.



I encourage you to check out the list of choral-vocal performances on the College of Music website [http://www.music.msu.edu/]. It's an amazing list and serves as a reminder of the many fantastic performance opportunities that are available at the MSU College of Music.

The most exciting news from campus is the complete renovation of the Fairchild Theatre, which opened in late October as a state-of-the-art opera and concert hall. It will serve as the College of Music's primary performance space. Our three auditioned ensembles, Chorale, State Singers, and Women's Chamber Ensemble, will rehearse and perform there as well as MSU Opera Theatre. The renovation of Fairchild and Cook Recital Hall represents a combined investment of approximately \$25 million by the university and is a significant step in moving the college forward.

Performance Highlights

On Saturday, Nov. 9, the MSU Choral Union, University Chorale, and State Singers will join the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of music director Timothy Muffitt, for a program that includes Mozart's "Requiem." On Saturday, Dec. 7, State Singers and Men's and Women's Glee Clubs, along with the MSU Children's Choir will join forces with the MSU Symphony Orchestra for MSU's Home for the Holidays. The following weekend, the MSU Chorale will give two performances of Handel's "Messiah" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

On Sunday, April 14, the University Chorale and Choral Union will perform Britten's "Saint Nicolas" with Professor Richard Fracker in the title role. The academic year concludes on Saturday, April 26, when the combined forces of the Choral Union, Chorale, and State Singers join the MSU Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Kevin Noe, to perform Mahler's Symphony No. 2.



Fairchild Theatre's opening performance on Oct. 28, 'S Wonderful, the Music of Gershwin, included Selections from "Porgy and Bess." Pictured here are, left to right, Reggie Thomas, piano; Peter Lightfoot, baritone; and Molly Fillmore, soprano.

Women's Chamber Ensemble at ACDA Central Division Conference

The Women's Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Sandra Snow, has been selected to perform at the ACDA Central Division Conference in Cincinnati Feb. 27-March 1, 2014. Make plans now to hear them and to attend the MSU reception. Details to follow!

Helen Bartlett Fellowship in Choral Music

Dr. Dale Bartlett, retired College of Music faculty member, MSU alum (BM '55; MM '56) and current conductor of the Lansing Arts Chorale, endowed a fellowship in memory of his late wife Helen, who was a longtime member of the Choral Union. This year's recipient is doctoral student Brandon Ulrich. Thank you, Dale!

Robert Harris Fellowship

Dr. Robert Harris, recently retired director of choral organizations at Northwestern University, a Michigan State alumnus (PhD '71), and former MSU director of choral activities, continues to fund the Robert A. Harris

Award for Excellence in Choral Performance to be given annually to an outstanding choral musician. This year's recipient is master's student J. Christine Le. Thank you, Bob!

Smith Fellowship Recipient

The Charles K. Smith Endowed Fellowship in Choral Conducting, created upon Smith's retirement in 2002 by members of the MSU Choral Society, is now fully endowed and provides important financial help to graduate students in choral conducting. This year's recipient is doctoral student Brandon Ulrich. Thank you to the many donors who have contributed to this endowment over the years!

Choral Society News

The Choral Society will again sponsor a "sing along" Messiah on Sunday, Dec. 8, at Edgewood United Church in East Lansing featuring student soloists. This annual event has been well attended and enthusiastically received in recent years. The Choral Society will also host a fundraising "Cabaret" on Saturday, Feb. 22. Through its dues and fundraising activities, the Choral Society provides scholarship assistance to graduate

Keeping Up with MSU Alumni

This section of the newsletter is intended to help you keep up with the careers of our MSU choral alumni. It's an impressive list of accomplishments that demonstrates our graduates are leaders in our profession. The list is obviously incomplete, so please contact me if you've recently changed jobs or want to share some aspect of your professional life with our alums. We particularly welcome information from those of who you received your degrees under the mentorship of Dr. Smith.

- Patrick Baker, MM '06, is in his sixth year as a choral director at Leyden High School in Franklin Park, Illinois. He completed his Ed.M. in Educational Organization and Leadership from the University of Illinois and received Type 75 General Administrative Certification in May of this year. In addition to providing musical direction for 9 to 5, The Musical, he will direct the school's annual Yuletide Dinner with authentic Renaissance fare, costumes, and music. He regularly has a number of

students in choral conducting. This year, the society provides assistance to doctoral students Meredith Bowen and Megan Boyd, and master's students Hae Won Jang and J. Christine Le.

Guest Clinicians

Allen Hightower was our guest for the Choral Invitational on Oct. 21, where he worked with eight high school choirs from around the state. He spent the following day working with our ensembles and graduate and undergraduate conducting students. Dr. Hightower is director of choral activities at Luther College where he conducts the famed Nordic Choir.

Don V Moses, one of the country's leading authorities on the masses of Joseph Haydn, will be on campus for a two-day residency during Spring Semester (dates to be determined). His appearance will be funded by the Paul and Martha Niland Endowed Lectureship in Choral Music, honoring Charles K. Smith. Moses is the former director of choral activities at the University of Iowa and the University of Illinois (where he also served as director of the School of Music) and music director emeritus of the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria.

students selected for the ILMEA All-State Honors and Jazz Choirs.

- Ryan Beeken, MM '09 and DMA '12, serves as director of choral activities at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and artistic director of the Blair Concert Chorale in Altoona, Pennsylvania. The IUP Chorale will perform at the fall conference of the Pennsylvania ACDA. This past year he presented at conferences of the Pennsylvania ACDA and Music Educators Association and conducted the Arkansas TTBB All-State Choir and honor choirs in Missouri and throughout Pennsylvania.

- Megan Boyd, MM '12 and current DMA student, published "The First 72 Hours: Success in the Choral Classroom" in the February issue of the "Choral Journal" and presented a session on the same topic at the 2013 Michigan Music Conference.

- Ted Brimeyer, MM '10, serves as vocal music director at Urbandale (Iowa) High School. The Urbandale Singers

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have been selected to serve as a demonstration choir at the North Central Division ACDA Conference in Des Moines in March 2014.

- Jennifer Tompa Burkemper, MM '06, is in her seventh year at Hinsdale (Illinois) Central High School. Her choirs will travel to New York City in November for a performance at St. John the Divine Cathedral and master classes at Lincoln Center as well as a Broadway workshop. She continues to be involved in a variety of leadership positions at the state and division level of ACDA.

- Andrew Crane, DMA '05, led the Chamber Choir of East Carolina University in performances at the conferences of the North Carolina ACDA and North Carolina Music Educators Association. He conducted the North Carolina all-state 9-10 choir and various honor choirs in North Carolina and Virginia. As a choral singer he performed with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Yale Choral Artists, and Dallas's Vox Humana. He currently serves as college-university R & S chair for North Carolina ACDA.

- Jerry Custer, DMA '12, is the co-author of "The Composer's Craft: A Practical Guide for Students and Teachers," published by GIA Publications in spring 2013. Over the past year, he has written commissioned works for the Columbia (Missouri) Chorale, Bucknell University Chapel Choir, and for high schools in New York and Florida. He served as conductor for the Long Island Festival of High School Choirs. He continues on the faculty at Wayne State University and as music director of the Seaway Chorale and Orchestra.

- Damon Dandridge has joined the music faculty at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona, Florida.

- Zach Durlam, DMA '10, received the 2013 President's Distinguished Service Award for Faculty at Fresno Pacific University. Last winter, his FPU choir performed at the California All-State Music Educators (NAfME) Conference, where he also presented a session entitled "Choral Tone 2.0." He will conduct the Central California All-Region Mixed Honor Choir in the fall of 2013.

- Meghan Eldred, MM '11, will lead the DeWitt High School Select Women's Ensemble in a performance at the Michigan Music Conference in January 2014.

- Christy Elsea completed her MM this past summer. She continues as vocal music director at Rolla (Missouri) High School.

- Derrick Fox completed his DMA in the spring of 2013 and has joined the faculty of Ithaca College. During the past year he presented at the state conferences of the Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas Choral Directors Associations and appeared as oratorio soloist in Brasilia, Brazil, at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Truman State University in Missouri.

