Chairs Corner

Good end-of-semester to you all!

Course News for the spring: We have scheduled a Band Methods course (MUSC 494 01)! This class will help prepare music students for our single-subject teaching credential program, which will officially be launched in fall, 2013. But, for any students interested in teaching music in schools, this is a highly important course. It will be taught by Dr. Ella Steinberg and will be scheduled for 4-6:50 on Wednesdays. Please contact Dr. Steinberg, Dr. Etheridge, or me about this new class or about the program.

We also are offering a unique course by Dr. Marianne Pfau (who is returning from sabbatical leave): MUSC 493 01 Special Topics in Music History – Credo: Music and Faith (T/R 9:15-10:35 am). This course will explore the ‘Credo’ of Bach’s B-minor Mass and Catholic chant in the Middle Ages, and also examine how the Creed has been set to music by most major composers in the Western tradition until today. No prerequisites. This innovative course fulfills a music history requirement.

December still has many USD Music Department concerts! The Choral Scholars and Concert Choir (Lessons and Carols) of Dec. 2 will be repeated on Dec 7 at 7:30 in Founders Chapel; the Choral Scholar Christmas Concert will be Dec 4, 12:15 in the French Parlor; the Jazz Ensemble and Mariachi Ensemble together will be Dec. 5, Shiley at 7:30 (note that we have combined Jazz and Mariachi Ensembles together, along with FAMA, the student folkloric dancers); the Student Recital is Dec 6, 12:15 in Shiley; and the Messiah Sing-Along is Dec 14 at 7:30 and Dec 15 at 2 pm in Founders Chapel.

I hope you enjoyed the music performances throughout the semester. The recent concerts by guest Tamir Hendelman and his Jazz Trio and by our own Dr. Kay Etheridge were outstanding.

We are coming to the end of 2012. We hope this was a rewarding semester and year in your life. During Intersession, the Choral Scholars will be visiting Italy and I will be taking a group of students to Bali. I hope that January begins a wonderful new chapter for you, and I look forward to seeing you again in late January.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all!
Adjunct Professor, Alyze Dreiling performed a new work by South Carolina composer and Assistant Professor of Theory/Composition at Winthrop University, SC, Leonard Mark Lewis, entitled Cannon and Mirrors, at the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) Annual Convention held in Nov. in San Diego, CA. The work was commissioned by Pi Kappa Lambda and joining Ms. Dreiling for this performance was the composer at the piano and San Diego cellist, Lorie Kirkell.

I am the incoming Academic Liaison for the Kyoto Prize Symposium. This duty will require me to attend the ceremony and presentations of the Kyoto laureates each fall around November 14. I attended this year and was very impressed by the professionalism and nobility of the event and those attending (including the laureates and Princess Takamado of Japan). I also met Naoto Otomo, the conductor of both the Tokyo and Kyoto Symphony Orchestras. He is a sensational music leader and directed the Kyoto Symphony through several fine compositions at the ceremony (including the Overture by Takemitsu and Smetana’s The Moldau). Most other music was traditional: Excerpts from Noh theatre (spectacular, if you don’t know what Noh is, take one of my Asian music courses). In other venues, we heard kouta (geisha tradition), nagauta from Kabuki theatre and some local Kyoto styles (Geion Corner). The Kyoto Prize laureate in Philosophy, Gayatri Spivak, will visit USD in March and present in Shiley Theatre. More on that later.

I am also the incoming Program Committee Chair for the national Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) conference next November in Indianapolis and will have to shuttle from Kyoto to Indianapolis to attend both the Kyoto Prize Symposium and the SEM conference.

In addition, I have been working throughout the year to prepare several research publications for early next year. And, I continue to perform occasionally with La Revancha (Latin rock) in LA, Ashwin Batish and the Sitar Power Band, when gigs are available, and with gamelan clubs in southern CA.

Christopher Adler performed compositions by San Diego composer Nathan Hubbard in a large ensemble project at Space4Art. And he celebrated the centennial of American composer John Cage with performances of One2 and Music for Amplified Toy Pianos at Palomar College and with San Diego New Music at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library. Also, the USD Choral Scholars premiered his composition “Madgrial: Epitaphium Poliae” at the College Music Society International Perspectives Concert.
Save the Date

The USD Music Department and the Center for Catholic Thought And Culture will again present "Lessons and Carols" on Friday, December 7th at 7:30 PM. Performances in the past have been standing-room-only so please arrive early to ensure seating. The program includes music performed by the 80 voiced USD Concert Choir - accompanied by professional orchestra between scriptural readings recalling the birth of Christ. Both performances are USD's "GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY" and at no cost to attendees.

Choral Scholars to perform at the College Music Society International Concert on: Friday, November 16th, 2012

USD Choral Scholars to Perform throughout Italy in January of 2013:

Performances include:
Sunday, January 13th:  St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice, Italy.
Wednesday, January 16th: for the Pope at Vatican City
Friday, January 18th: St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

MUSC 120 Community Project
MUSC 120 Class Community Project at Ronald McDonald House
Students from both sections of Fundamentals of Music Theory Class presented a musical performance for the families at Ronald McDonald House on Friday, November 16. Each class was responsible for a 30-minute musical presentation that included a story, related music, and an original song composed by the students themselves. Students from the first section performed “School of Rock,” with an original song composed by Miles Mitchell and lyrics contributed by the other students.

Students from the second section gave a presentation surrounding an excursion by Prince JP (Rossiter) and Princess Hayley (Park). Choral Scholar Hayley Park composed the original song for the second section. Among the reflections from the students:

“It was a great project that helped the members of the class bond, share music, and learn more about music.”

“This project tested our abilities as musicians and as creative individuals to tell a story through music. I’m not only walking away from this project a better person and musician, but with new friendships.”

“This project is a fantastic way to get the class excited about music and recognize the applicability of music theory, as well as a great excuse for the students to get to know each other, especially as a preceptorial class!”

 “[The project] reminded me why I do what I do and why I have a passion for singing and performing…. It is exhilarating and so fulfilling. I know this where I am meant to be.”

Spotlight Dr. Angela Yeung

Dr. Yeung conducted two major concerts in November. On November 15 her cello ensemble the Coterie Celli was featured in the Grace Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary Celebration Chamber Music Concert Series, a series that included distinguished artists such as the award winning Cecilia String Quartet and pianist Jessie Chang with members of the San Diego Symphony.

On November 25 Dr. Yeung conducted the San Diego Christian Chorale and Orchestra in a performance of “The Prodigal Son” by Taiwanese composer Tyzen Hsiao. The performance, held at the Emmanuel Faith Community Church in Escondido, was the world premiere of this work sung in Mandarin.