

Fall 11-1-2014

## Upbeat, Nov. 2014

San Jose State University, School of Music and Dance

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# UPPER BEAT

NOVEMBER 2014

## MUSIC

### Alumni News

**Brian Sears** (BM Composition, 2013) is a Master of Music degree candidate at Bowling Green State University, where he serves as Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Composition area. This position includes a full tuition scholarship and a living stipend. His music has been performed at CEMICircles music festival at the University of North Texas, and by the San José Chamber Orchestra via the Allen Strange Memorial Composition Commission. He recently was selected to have his orchestra piece *Fractured Spirits* read and recorded by the Toledo Symphony Orchestra.

### Music Student News

**Katsuya Yuasa** (Clarinet, class of 2013) was a 2014 Yamaha Young Artist Competition winner. He received a clarinet from Yamaha and performed in concert with the rest of the winners.



## DANCE

**Hannah Vaughan** (BFA Dance, 2014) was selected as Outstanding Graduating Senior for the 2014 class. Since her graduation, Hannah has immersed herself in the professional dance world. She is the newest company member of sjDANCEco and is also working with REACH BC Dance Company, directed by SJSU faculty member **Heather Cooper** and international dance artist Raphaël Boumaïla. With REACH BC, Ms. Vaughan performed last July at Little Boxes Theater, San Francisco and for the Westwave Festival in September. She currently is working with the company on a production scheduled for February 2015 at the Dance Mission Theater in San Francisco. As if working with two contemporary dance companies is not enough, Ms. Vaughan also is working with Peter & Co., directed by San Francisco artist Peter Cheng.



Real Men Sing (October 2014)

### 1000 Singers Descend Upon SJSU!

The SJSU School of Music and Dance sponsored our annual Real Men Sing event, directed by Dr. **Jeffrey Benson** on Friday, October 10, but with a twist. For the first time, Real Women Sing took place simultaneously with about 450 high school men and another 450 high school women. Morris Dailey and the Concert Hall were packed with young musicians for this singing extravaganza. The SJSU and West Valley College choirs joined the day and performed for our guests from all over the Bay Area. The students combined to perform in an informal noontime concert.

Hannah Vaughan (BFA Dance, 2014)

# MUSIC



Dr. Gwendolyn Mok

## Music Faculty News

The Pacific Mambo Orchestra, of which **Dr. Aaron Lington** is a member, was voted as the Best Band of the 2014 Best of the Bay in the *San Francisco Guardian* Reader's Poll. This Best of the Bay insert coincided with the last printed copy of the 48-year-old newspaper.

Pianist Dr. **Gwendolyn Mok** will perform with the Prazak Quartet at the Le Petit Trianon, Sunday November 15 at 8:00 pm on the SJ Chamber Music Society series.

[sjchambermusic.org](http://sjchambermusic.org)

Guitar professor **Steve Lin** will be featured as a guest artist with Ensemble San Francisco in a performance of Paganini's Guitar Quintet No.15 and Piazzolla's *L'Histoire du Tango* at *Le Petit Trianon* on November 8.

**Scott Whitfield** released *Solitary Moon: Ginger Berglund & Scott Whitfield Sing the Johnny Mandel Songbook* in August with Bi-Coastal Music, Inc. The album is nominated for several Grammys and features the husband-and-wife team of Berglund and Whitfield in vocal duets and solo spots, as well as a guest appearance by the Modernaires, the legendary vocal group of which Whitfield and Berglund are both members.



Scott Whitfield and Ginger Berglund

# DANCE



Joan Walton (August 2014)

## Dance Faculty News

sjDANCEco, San José's professional contemporary dance company and resident dance company in the School of Music and Dance, recently completed a successful 12<sup>th</sup> Season at the historic California Theatre in downtown San José. The program featured José Limón's exquisite masterwork *Mazurkas* to the music of Frederic Chopin, a revival of Artistic Director and Dance Professor **Gary Masters'** 1980 *Broken Memory* to the music of Serge Rachmaninov, and three premieres by faculty members **Heather Cooper, Maria Basile, and Alumna Hsiang Hsiu Lin.**

## Dancing the Charleston in Russia

Vintage dance historian **Joan Walton** traveled to Moscow, Russia to teach at the Moscow International Festival of Historical Dance in August. This annual festival is attended by enthusiastic dancers who love the concept of time travel: wearing the costumes, learning the dances, and listening to the music of earlier times. This year, Professor Walton taught social dances and graces, beginning with an 1899 quadrille and ending with the 1930s Foxtrot. She returns next year to teach 19<sup>th</sup>-century dances in addition to other 20<sup>th</sup>-century styles.



## UPCOMING CONCERTS

**November 1, 2014**  
University Dance Theater  
"In the Rough"  
2:30pm, 7:00pm  
Music Concert Hall

**November 4, 2014**  
Mu Phi Concert  
7:30pm  
Music Concert Hall

**November 5, 2014**  
Choreography II Showing  
1:15pm  
WSQ 204

**November 6, 2014**  
Saxophone Ensemble Concert  
7:30pm  
Music Concert Hall

Choreography II Showing  
1:45pm  
WSQ 204

**November 7, 2014**  
Percussion Ensemble Concert  
7:30pm  
Music Concert Hall

**November 8, 2014**  
Clarinet Studio Recital  
7:30pm  
Music Concert Hall

**November 12, 2014**  
Nichole Boaz & Tom Langan  
Special Concert  
7:30pm  
Music Concert Hall

Check our **Events Calendar**  
for more events!

## Give to SMD

Your support is fundamental to the success of our students, and we greatly appreciate contributions of all shapes and sizes. Visit **SJSU Giving** to place your donation now and specify School of Music and Dance. Thank you!

This monthly newsletter was written and designed by the College of Humanities and Arts marketing team.