Stay in Time, Sept. 2014

San Jose State University, School of Music and Dance

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STAY IN TIME

September 2014 issue

Welcome back!

The students, faculty and staff of the School of Music and Dance (SMD) are excited to be back at SJSU and are working hard to prepare a fabulous bouquet of performances for you this fall. Highlights for the month of October include the Jazz Orchestra (Oct. 7), Latin Jazz Ensemble (Oct. 8), Wind Ensemble (Oct. 9), University Dance Theater (Nov. 1), and much more! Check out our performance calendars for Music and Dance.

Instrument of the Month

The flute refers to one of the oldest, most varied, and most widely used wind instruments in the world. The Western concert flute is a traverse woodwind instrument played by blowing a stream of air over the embouchure hole. Despite its size, it requires an impressive amount of breath from the musician. The flute family includes the piccolo, alto flute, bass flute, contrabass flute, and the rare hyperbass flute. SMD's

Congratulations to Aaron Lington, whose recent album Bicoastal Collective: Chapter Three won Jazz Record of the Year in the 2014 East Coast Music Association (ECMA) awards. Professor Janet Averett interviewed Dr. Lington during a Listening Hour program, where he described the process of winning a
own "Fabulous Flutes"
perform Tuesday, September 30 during the
Listening Hour.

Alumni Spotlight

Pasquale Esposito, a voice alumnus, is participating in Enrico Caruso: His Life, His Music, His City, a successful Kickstarter documentary honoring renowned Italian tenor Enrico Caruso. The Kickstarter project raised over $50,000 toward filming the concert portion of the project, which will feature Pasquale Esposito performing. PBS has expressed interest in airing the documentary during their winter 2014 Pledge Programming.

Ensemble Spotlight

The San José State Opera Theater has an exciting year planned, including a fully-staged opera production of Grammy. Now all our students can prepare to enter and win someday, too!

Dr. Brian Belet's 2011 composition Summer Phantoms: Nocturne was performed at the Onassis Cultural Center in Athens, Greece during the 2014 International Computer Music Conference, September 2014. Now, Dr. Belet is on sabbatical leave for the fall semester composing a new work for symphony orchestra.

The SJSU Choraliers and Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Benson, will make their Carnegie Hall debut on April 27, 2015. The Choraliers will sing a short program of American music featuring Professor Layna Chianakas, mezzo soprano. The Concert Choir will then perform Gabriel Faure's Requiem with a professional orchestra and soloists from New York under Dr. Benson's baton. The singers travel to New York for the entire weekend of rehearsals, culminating in a performance in Carnegie Hall. Come join us!

Owing to the generosity of Mr. Johanthan Clark of Mountain View, we are now the proud owners of an exquisite historic keyboard. The rosewood, Queen Anne-style keyboard was constructed in 1875 by
Orpheus in the Underworld by Jacques Offenbach, scheduled for spring 2015. On December 12 at 7:30pm in the Music Concert Hall, the Opera Theater will present Romeo and Juliet Go to Hell, featuring music Gounod, Bernstein, and other favorites. Save the dates for this lively production!

Check out their Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for photos from weekly rehearsals and information on upcoming performances.

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Dr. Gwendolyn Mok is the featured soloist with the Diablo Symphony on October 5 at the Dean Lesher Center in Walnut Creek. She also will perform with the Prazak Quartet from the Czech Republic on the San José Chamber Society series Sunday, November 15 at the Petit Trianon in San José.

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Earlier this month, the SJSU saxophone studio was visited by Dr. Idit Shner and John Sampen (pictured), saxophone professors from University of Oregon and Bowling Green State University, respectively, for a week of saxophone performances and master classes. Dr. Shner performed a recital with Los Angeles-based harpist Linda-Rose Hembreiker for saxophone and harp. Dr. Shner also worked with several students in the SJSU Saxophone Studio in an informative master class.

John Sampen is a well known artist in contemporary repertoire. He has commissioned over 80 new works, including compositions by Milton Babbitt, John Cage, Frederick Rzewski, and many others. SJSU professor of composition Dr. Pablo Furman sponsored Mr. Sampen's visit with a multimedia performance that featured projected visuals, interactive electronics, and historical recordings of the composers' voices. Entitled "In Two Worlds," the piece featured the music of John Cage, Morton Subotnick, Marilyn Shrude, Mark Bunce, and Toru Takemitsu. In addition, Mr. Sampen presented a masterclass for composition and saxophone students,
discussing his work with composers, some of the technology involved in their performances, and how the concert was conceived.