

Spring 2-1-2014

## Stay in Time, Feb. 2014

San Jose State University, School of Music and Dance

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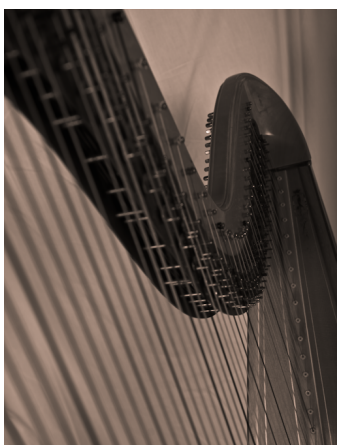
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## Instrument of the Month

The **harp** is a multi-stringed instrument whose strings are perpendicular to the sound board. Harpists can more easily tell strings apart because all C strings are red and all F strings come in blue or black.



## [February 2014 issue](#)

### Welcome back!

Spring is in full swing, and so is the School of Music and Dance! Don't miss this semester's concert season starting next month. [View event calendar.](#)

**Download this month's newsletter in PDF!**

Congratulations to Aaron Lington! His group, the Pacific Mambo Orchestra, was just awarded a Grammy for Best Tropical Latin Album for their self-titled debut album.

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● DID YOU KNOW...

The Pacific Mambo Orchestra, of which **Dr. Aaron Lington** is a founding member, won Grammy Award for "Best Tropical Latin Album" with their self-titled debut album. Dr. Lington played bari saxophone on all tracks and composed half of them.

**The oboe studio** has received a \$5000 grant from the DEW Foundation to purchase oboe reed making tools and equipment. With this grant, they will be able to completely outfit the reed-making workshop with brand new equipment, including several specialized machines.

In December, the studio also received a donation of professional-level oboes worth \$7,500 from **Audrey Gore** of San José, CA. These oboes will be used by new oboe majors until they are able to purchase their own instruments. The oboe studio is very grateful for both of these generous gifts!

**Dr. Diana Hollinger** was unanimously selected as the outstanding music educator by the Bay Section CMEA. She also has been invited to guest conduct at the CASMEC conference in February 2014, "Works for Band by Women Composers."

**Dr. Brian Belet's** piece *Summer Phantoms: Nocturne* (composition for piano and electronics) was recorded by pianist Keith Kirchoff in Boston in late December 2013. The recording will be published on a forthcoming audio CD compilation of Belet's music for instruments and computer processing. This project was funded by a SJSU Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities grant.

Recent performances of *Summer Phantoms: Nocturne* have been appraised in two recent reviews: *Seamus Newsletter* calls it "a blend of heavily-processed and synthetic sounds [that] create a dynamic, surprising environment." A reviewer from *Sequenza 21* finds the piece "effective and atmospheric. The effects are genuinely chilling and not artificial or overly analytical."

**Dr. Belet** had his film acting debut in December, when he portrayed the role of Newton (eccentric scientist and inventor) in the indie film *Analogue*. Shot in Boston, MA, the film deals with the fantastic ability of the lead character to create psychological sonic portraits of people (using Newton's invention), sound structures that sound different to everyone who hears them, since everyone brings their own inner characteristics to the perception process.

**Professors Fred Mathews and Gary Masters** have received the "Live Blessay 2013" Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Bay Area Dance Watch. John Parenica (SJSU Dance Program & sjDANCEco Videographer) also received a "Live Blessay 2013" award from the Bay Area Dance Watch for Best Dance Videography.

Our Resident Professional Dance Company, **sjDANCEco**, directed by **Professor Gary Masters** and **Maria Basile**, received two Isadora Duncan Award nominations for the 2012-2013 performance season, which is the most prestigious Dance Award in the Bay Area.

Dance alumnae **Hsiang-Hsiu Lin** and **Raphaël Boumaïla** received an award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography for their piece *Keyed*, and Gary Masters and Raphaël Boumaïla won for Outstanding Achievement in Restaging/Revival/Reconstruction for *Moor's Pavane* by *Jose Limon*.

Two of our former music education students have recently been honored: **Craig McKenzie** as Teacher of the Year, and **Keith Johnson** as Outstanding Youth Music Educator.



*This monthly newsletter was written and designed by the SMD Marketing Team. If any faculty or staff has important information that he or she would like to have included in next month's issue, contact the team via [poweringthearts@sjsu.edu](mailto:poweringthearts@sjsu.edu).*

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## Upcoming Events



### Music

Monday, March 3  
7:30pm  
Jazz Orchestra

Monday, March 10  
7:30pm  
Symphonic Band

Tuesday, March 11  
7:30pm  
Wind Ensemble

Wednesday, March 12  
7:30pm  
Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, March 14  
7:30pm  
"Fireworks"  
Choral Concert

Wednesday, March 19  
7:30pm  
Latin Jazz Ensemble

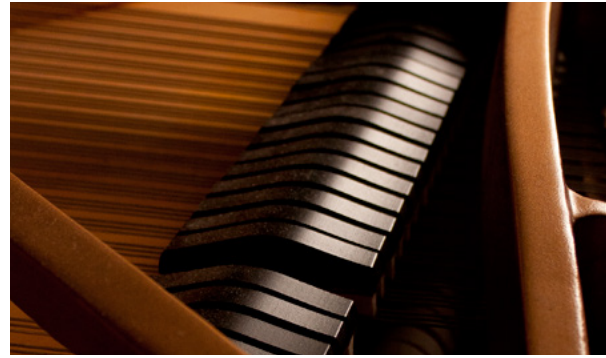
Thursday, March 20  
7:30pm  
Guitar Ensemble

### Dance

Thursday, February 27  
1:45pm  
Choreography III Showing

Friday, March 7  
7:00pm  
Danceworks Presents

Saturday, March 8  
2:30pm matinee, 7:00pm  
Danceworks Presents



**Layna Chianakas** will be a soloist with the Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra on March 15 and 16, performing Songs of a *Wayfarer* by Gustav Mahler and Excerpts from *Old American Songs* by Aaron Copland.

Some opera department alumni also have seen recent success. **Christine Capsuto** (BM, 2012) will perform as Musetta in *La Boheme* with Townsend Opera and later with the West Edge Opera. **Jennifer Mitchell**, (MA, 2012) will perform as Ida in *Die Fledermaus* with Lamplighters Music Theater. And **Kelly Walker** (MA, 2013) will perform the role of Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* with the Pacific Spindrift Players.

All three of SJSU's participants in this year's concerto competition were selected as winners: **Devyn Noriel** and **Kevin Hull** will be performing as duo pianists in Poulenc's Concerto for Two Pianos, and **Tana Wu** was selected to perform Grieg Piano Concerto next fall. **Dr. Mok** is very proud of our contestants.

**Joan Walton** was invited to San Diego to teach dances of the nineteenth and early twentieth Centuries in the famous 1915 ballroom at Balboa Park. The three-day event ran from January 31 through February 2. In addition to teaching waltz, polka, two-step, and set dances from the nineteenth century, she worked with the 12-piece *Grand Pacific Waltz Orchestra* while precepting the three-hour "Viennese Nights" ball. The weekend was rounded out with Lindy Hop variations during an advanced, invitation-only Sunday class.

Alumnus **Katsuya Yuasa**, a first-year student at the Boston Conservatory of Music, won the BCoM Wind Ensemble concerto competition and will perform as soloist in May. **Kristin Nakagawa** was one of the winners of the SJSU concerto competition and will perform *Tema con variazioni* by Jean Françaix on March 12.

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