



Department of Music

Valparaiso University

Greetings, Music Alumni!

Welcome to the first online edition of our alumni newsletter. Please keep sending us your news, pictures, and updates, and check www.valpo.edu/music often for departmental and alumni news.

In this issue, you will find faculty updates, alumni news, and information about our music season and ensemble touring.

This year has been marked by changes and milestones in the Department of Music. Among our faculty, Dr. Marcia Lewis has retired after more than 25 years of service at Valpo. We celebrated her accomplishments with a party and dinner in May, attended by many of her former students.

After 15 years as Chair of the Department of Music, Dr. Linda Ferguson has returned to teaching full-time. This fall, she developed a course on American music history.

We have started some new performing initiatives, including the formation of the VU Men's Choir and VU Women's Choir, conducted by Dr. Christopher Cock and Prof. Maura Janton Cock. In this debut semester, over 50 students have enrolled to sing in these new ensembles. You can hear their premiere performances on Homecoming Weekend.

Two important anniversaries are occurring in 2009 and 2010. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Chapel of the Resurrection, and there is an extensive series of events commemorating the occasion. You can find out more at the link to the right.

In April 2010, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of JazzFest at Valparaiso University. This year will feature the best of years past, with guests artists returning to campus in an array of exciting performances. Headlining this year's event will be the Count Basie Orchestra.

This year we are embarking upon a new partnership with the community, bringing together the choral music tradition of this campus with internationally renowned choral talent. Guest ensembles Chanticleer and the Vienna Boys' Choir will be at VU this fall. Guest conductor Hermann Max will lead our musicians in the Bach Institute's performance of the *St. Matthew Passion* in March. For performances dates and ticket pricing, please see the last page of this newsletter, or call the VU Box Office at 219-464-5162 for more information.

And finally, alumni singers are invited back to campus to join our own students and faculty in a performance of Mahler's Second Symphony, "Resurrection." Contact us at music@valpo.edu for more details.

If you are planning a trip back to campus, we sincerely hope you will try to attend one of the many exciting concerts we have scheduled for this year. Let us know when you'll be here, and we'll try to catch up in person.

Hail to the Brown and Gold,

Dr. Joseph A. Bogнар, VU '94
Chair, Department of Music

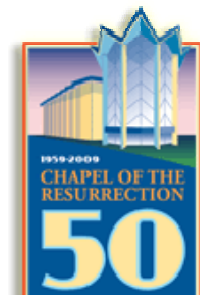
Homecoming 2009:

Saturday, October 10
11 am, Alumni Choir Rehearsal
4 pm, VU Chorale, Men's Choir, Women's Choir, Chapel
7:30 pm, VU Symphony, Chapel

Sunday, October 11
10am, Worship
3:00pm, Martin Jean, organ

In this issue:

- **News from the VU Music faculty**
- **Highlights of the 2009-10 performance calendar**
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www.valpo.edu/chapel

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Faculty News

Dr. Marcia Lewis retired in Summer 2009, after teaching at Valpo for over 25 years. She traveled to an international voice conference in Paris, France and submitted her article entitled "Transformation of Pedagogical Content and Methodology in Media Instruction as reflected by the Changing Business Climate in the 21st Century," for national publication.

Dr. Gregory Maytan's recording *Scandinavia* with Adjunct Instructor in Music, **Nicole Lee**, piano, was named by the *The Strad* as the Recital CD of the Month in April 2009.

Dr. Lorraine Brugh is in her second year as president-elect of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. She has written an article on global music for the upcoming December 2009 issue of *The Lutheran* and is a contributor to the 2011 edition of *Sundays and Seasons*, a book of liturgical planning resources.

Dr. Jeffrey Scott Doebler (VU '87) completed his fourth tour of China conducting Windiana, Northwest Indiana's professional wind ensemble, with plans in the works for a fifth tour in 2010. Dr. Doebler returned to the faculty of the Lutheran Music Program (2009) to conduct the bands.

Dr. Christopher M. Cock sang the role of the Evangelist in the *St. Matthew Passion* with the National Lutheran Choir in Minneapolis in Spring 2009. In March, he conducted the New England Symphonic Ensemble and choral ensembles (including our VU Chorale) at Carnegie Hall in New York, in a performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona nobis pacem*. He is the tenor soloist for a November performance of the *B minor Mass* commemorating the 125th anniversary of the School of Music at USC (Helmuth Rilling, conductor).



The Chorale and conductor Christopher Cock in front of Carnegie Hall, NY.

Dr. Joseph Bognar (VU '94) assumed the chairship of the Department of Music in July 2009. He has published nineteen hymn arrangements for Augsburg's series *Introductions and Alternate Accompaniments for Organ*—companion volumes to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. His biographical essays on Artur Schnabel, Ferruccio Busoni, and Olivier Messiaen appear in *Musicians and Composers of the Twentieth Century*, published in June 2009 by Salem Press. He will give the world premiere performance of a new work for solo piano by composer Stephen Wilcox at the Santa Barbara Art Museum in November 2009.

Dr. John Bernthal (VU '70) is on sabbatical in Fall 2009, when he will devote time to composing organ arrangements of hymns for publication.

During the 2009 summer season, **Angela Young Smucker** (VU '02), Adjunct Instructor in Voice, made her debut with the Grant Park Festival Chorus performing works by Shostakovich, Elgar, and Beethoven. She reprised her role with the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus as they premiered a new setting of *Messiah* by Sven-David Sandström, and appeared as an alto soloist in Haydn's *Creation*. In the 2009-2010 season, Angela will be performing with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Louisville Bach Society, VOX 3, and the Bach Institute at Valparaiso University.

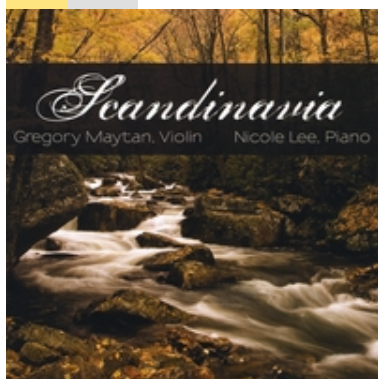
Dr. Stacy Maugans attended the World Saxophone Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, where she played the world premiere of Deborah Monroe's *The Breath of Life* for viola and saxophone.

Dr. Linda Ferguson served as a reviewer and author of ancillary teaching materials for a new textbook, *Listen to This* by Mark Evan Bonds, published by Prentice-Hall, 2009.

Virginia Oram, Adjunct Instructor in Voice, once again spent the summer at the Chautauqua Institution in NY, singing in the auditioned Motet Choir for daily morning worship services, and the Chautauqua Choir, which sings for Sunday morning worship. She had the honor to solo with each group several times during the season.



Prof. Jeffrey Scott Doebler conducting Windiana and erhu soloist Huan Zhao; Nanjing, 2009



Scandinavia: "Lyrical freshness and infectious vitality" (Julian Haylock, The Strad)

Faculty Recitals 2009-2010

- Sept. 27* – Faculty organists **Dr. Lorraine Brugh**, Kruse organ fellow and university organist; **Dr. John Bernthal**, associate professor of music and associate university organist; and **John Brian George**, adjunct instructor in music; will recreate the Reddel Memorial Organ dedication recital given at the Chapel of the Resurrection on Sept. 27, 1959, by E. Power Biggs. The program features works of Bernardo Pasquini, J. S. Bach, César Franck, Paul Hindemith, and Marcel Dupré.
- Oct. 4 – Saxophonist **Dr. Stacy Maugans**, assistant professor of music, will be joined by pianist **Nicole Lee**, adjunct instructor in music, and violist **Katarzyna Bugaj** in a program of 21st century music for saxophone. The program includes the American premiere of composer Deborah J. Monroe's *The Breath of Life*, which Dr. Maugans premiered this summer at the World Saxophone Congress in Thailand, and *Counterpoints* by Valpo alumna Karen Olson (VU '03).
- Nov. 1 – **Dr. Phillip Serna**, adjunct instructor in music, and guest artist **Rachel Cama-Lekx** will perform excerpts Johannes Schenk's *Nymphs of the Rhine* for two viols.
- Jan. 24 – Violinist **Dr. Gregory Maytan**, assistant professor of music, and pianist **Dr. Joseph Bognar**, associate professor of music, will perform violin sonatas by Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel.
- Feb. 14 – Mezzo-soprano **Virginia Oram** will perform a recital of music by women composers.
- Feb. 21 – Baritone **Ralph Klapis**, adjunct instructor in music, and pianist **Joseph Bognar**, will perform songs by award-winning composer and Valpo alumnus Frank Ferko (VU '72) set to the poems of American Trappist monk and author Thomas Merton.
- April 18 – Oboist **Jennet Ingle**, adjunct instructor in music, will perform a variety of works. Ingle is a critically-acclaimed artist who won a Farwell Award from Chicago's Musicians Club of Women in 2001, and was a semifinalist in the Tokyo International Oboe Competition in 2003.

Recitals will take place at 3 p.m. at the VU Center for the Arts. The recitals are free and open to the public.

**The Sept. 27 program is the Chapel.*

*Faculty Recitals
throughout the year are
scheduled for Sunday
afternoons at 3:00 pm.*

Ensemble Tours: 2010

We are pleased to announce that the **Valparaiso University Chorale** will make a return trip to Leipzig, Germany in May 2010, for their third choral residency in the St. Thomaskirche. Performances are planned with the Leipzig Baroque Orchestra. In March, the Chorale will tour in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

The **Kantorei** will tour during the first week of Spring Break with stops in Atlanta, GA, Hilton Head, SC, and Chapel Hill, NC. They will give concerts, lead vespers services, and spend a day in retreat.

The **Chamber Concert Band** has partnered with the Confucius Institute at Valparaiso University to tour the Southern United States in March 2010. The CCB will perform American and Chinese repertoire, collaborating with guest artists playing traditional Chinese instruments.

The International Confucius Institute in Beijing, in cooperation with the Department of Music and Confucius Institute at Valparaiso University, is underwriting the **American International Youth Orchestra's** two-week tour of China in July 2010. High school and college instrumentalists are invited to apply to participate in the orchestra, to be conducted by Dr. Dennis Friesen-Carper. The group will perform in the Beijing National Theatre and other concert venues in Beijing, Hangzhou, and Nanjing, collaborating with professional and student performers on Western and traditional Chinese classical instruments.



*Christopher M. Cock
conducting the VU Chorale and
the Leipzig Baroque Orchestra
in the St. Thomaskirche, 2007*

Alumni News



Katie (Leukens) Chan Chee, VU '91, in a 2009 New York production of Footloose.

Photo by Jason Chen



Chad Lindsey, VU '97, with the cast of Notes on the Land of Earthquake and Fire.

Sonja Kahler Larson (B.Mus, 1990) was featured in the book *Live/Work; Working at Home, Living at Work* (Abrams, 2008) and in the publication *Washington Spaces*, both displaying her custom music room/installations in her home in Bethesda MD.

Katie (Luemens) Chan Chee (BME, 1991) is teaching music at Martin Luther High School in Maspeth (Queens), NY, and performing in local theatre in the greater NY area, most recently playing Ethel McCormick in "Footloose."

Dawn Trautman (English, 1994), alumna of the VU Concert Choir, is based in New York City as an actress, life coach and author. This past year she has performed in two different musicals at dinner theaters, "It's a Wonderful Life" in Illinois and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" in Kansas.

Sharon (Jackman) Barton (MM, 1995) has directed the adult handbell choir at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, MN since 2003, and is in her fourth year ringing with Twin Cities Bronze, an annually auditioned handbell ensemble from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Michelle (LeGear) Lane (B.M.E., 1995) is a private music teacher in DeForest, WI, providing special teaching instruction to students with disabilities.

Lisa Marie (Miller) Cook (B.A.-music, 1996) defended her doctoral dissertation in December at University of Colorado, dissertation, "Living in Northwest Asia: Transculturation and Postwar Art Music," discusses four cross-cultural compositions by four postwar composers (Toru Takemitsu, Toshio Mayuzumi, Lou Harrison and Alan Hovhaness).

Chad Lindsey (B.A.-music, 1997) was featured on the Rachel Maddow Show (MSNBC) for his heroic actions in saving a man from the tracks of a New York subway. In Fall 2009, he acted in Jason Schafer's *Notes on the Land of Earthquake and Fire* at the Soho Playhouse.

Jennifer Baker-Trinity (B.Mus., 1999) was conference chair for the 2009 biennial meeting of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. She also serves on the advisory

council of VU's Institute of Liturgical Studies.

London-Silas Shavers (B.M.E., 2000) is Professor of Fine Arts and Coordinator of Woodwind Studies at Northwest Mississippi Community College and is an Endorsing Artist/Clinician for the Leblanc Division of Conn-Selmer, Inc and Backun Musical Products.

Peter Smucker (B.M.E., 2001) is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Music Theory and History at the University of Chicago, where he holds a teaching assistantship. He recently presented his paper "Building Character: Technical Interactions of Musical Persona in the Music of Elliott Carter" at Indiana University East and Wright State University's colloquium celebrating Elliott Carter's 100th birthday.

Carla Wesby (B.M.E. 2001) spent five weeks this summer at the Bard Festival singing in the chorus of Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots*. In November 2009, she will make her City Opera debut in New York, singing in the chorus of Hugo Weisgall's *Esther*.

Karen Olson (B.Mus., 2003) has commenced doctoral studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

Erin Stinson (B.M.E., 2003) completed the MM degree in Choral Conducting at Illinois State. She is teaching choir and general music at Belvidere South Middle School in Illinois.

Katharine Harmon (B.A.-music, 2004) is a doctoral candidate in Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame.

Rich Ortiz (B.Mus., 2004) received a favorable review from John Von Rhein in the *Chicago Tribune* for a performance of his string quartet, "Persistence in the Face of Adversity." See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGc51nCOc8> for the composition.

Melissa Plamann (B. Mus., 2004) is in her final year in the DMA program at Indiana University.

Valerie Lefever Hughes (B.Mus., 2005) is Director of Music at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chapel Hill, NC

Alumni news, continued

Heather Paisar (B.Mus, 2006) is in the DMA program in organ and musicology at University of Kansas.

Benjamin Krause (B.Mus., 2007) spent the summer in a young composer's program at the Brevard festival in North Carolina. He is completing his MM in composition at University of Oregon.

Michael Beaver (B.A.-music, 2007) has finished a Master of Science in Education degree from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL in Adult and Higher Education and is currently Assistant Director for Greek Affairs at NIU.

Katie Johnson (B.A.-music, 2007) was accepted to the Aspen Festival in the summer of 2009. She is completing her MM in horn performance at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

John Allegar (B.Mus, 2007) completed his MM in organ performance at Yale University and is pursuing doctoral studies at the Eastman School.

Carey Mueller (B.A., 2007) completed her MM in Piano Performance at Western Illinois University.

Nicole Koehler (B.Mus., 2008) is a second-year masters student in organ at Notre Dame.

Jordan Even (B.Mus., 2009) is pursuing graduate studies in Piano Performance with an assistantship in opera accompanying at Western Michigan University.

Photo by Aran Kessler



Kate Zuehsow sings the role of the Queen of the Night in VU's 2009 production of Mozart's "The Magic Flute," directed by John Steven Paul.

In Memoriam: John Steven Paul

Professor John Steven Paul, Professor of Theatre, passed away unexpectedly on July 10, 2009. His funeral service was held on July 16, 2009, when numerous friends, colleagues, and former students gathered to pay their respects. On September 26, a memorial gathering was held on campus, featuring dramatic and musical selections, including: *Annie's Party* and *And They Danced*, performed by Soul Purpose.

JSP directed more than 60 plays, musicals, and operas for the University Theatre, and directed the Christ College drama workshop. He taught courses in dramatic literature, playwriting and screenwriting, drama and the church, and non-Western theatre. He founded the liturgical drama troupe, Soul Purpose, as well the Young Actors' Shakespeare Workshop. He was active in the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and worked on countless campus committees and special events. He served as the program director of the Lilly Fellows Program in the Humanities and the Arts. His wife, Margaret Franson, is Associate Dean of Christ College.

His last mainstage production, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, was presented in the University Theatre in Spring 2009.

Important Dates for 2009-2010

- October 24, 2009: Family Weekend Band Concerts
- November 11-15, 2009: *Cabaret*
- December 4 & 5, 2009: VU Christmas Concert: A Carol Festival
- December 6, 2009: Julefest
- December 11, 2009: Advent-Christmas Vespers
- December: *Christmas at Valpo*; check your local public broadcast listings
- March 20, 2010: Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, with guest conductor Hermann Max
- April 5-10, 2010: 25th Annual Valparaiso University JazzFest



Stay informed of upcoming art events and performances

www.valpo.edu/luca/maillinglist.php



- October 2, 2009: Chanticleer, the Grammy-award winning male vocal ensemble
- November 5, 2009: Vienna Boys' Choir
- December 4 & 5, 2009: Valparaiso University Christmas Concert: A Carol Festival
- March 20, 2010: Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, with guest conductor Hermann Max
- May 2, 2010: Mahler's Symphony no. 2, "Resurrection"

Sponsored by Valparaiso Community Festivals and Events & the Department of Music at Valparaiso University.



Chanticleer

Alumni singers! Join us to perform Mahler's Symphony no. 2, *Resurrection*, at the Chapel of the Resurrection on May 2, 2010. Contact us at music@valpo.edu for more information!

