

SCHOOL OF MUSIC NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Podium

Greetings from Presser Hall!

What a year it has been for you and for all of us. Just think of where we all were a year ago learning of the opportunity to transform the School of Music while learning to confront COVID. Despite the challenges of COVID, teaching/learning/performing remotely and diving into the required work of reshaping the School of Music for the next generation, we have made it through the 2020-21 school year! Many lessons have been learned this past year and I feel confident we have emerged stronger and more focused on what our programs should provide to our students here. I am also very pleased that the IWU faculty approved our revised degree programs in BME, the BM Performance (vocal, instrumental and piano), as well as the BA in music. Thanks to all of you who supported the SOM in any way during this past year. We are forever grateful.



Sincerely,
Franklin Larey



Student News

Leanna Horton '22 (BME, Euphonium) was awarded the Presser Award at the School of Music Honors Convocation in April.

Cameron Kidd '22 (BM, Voice) is this year's recipient of the David Nott Collegiate Choir Scholarship

Ryan Nateghpour, a student of **Erin Mulliken '90** in the Piano Prep program, received 3rd place at the Illinois Symphony Orchestra guild auditions this year and received a \$300 scholarship toward his Piano Prep tuition for next year.

Braylee Parry '21 (BM, clarinet; student of Moria Tunison) is this year's winner of the Wind Concerto Competition, and she will be attending the University of Kentucky for her Master's degree in the fall.

Dylan Prophter '22 (BME, Tuba) and **Lindsay Ring '21** (BME, Euphonium) were inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda at the School of Music Honors Convocation.

Lindsay Ring '21 (BME, Euphonium) was awarded a full scholarship for Master's studies in Euphonium performance at the University of Michigan, starting in Fall 2021. As the only Euphonium Master's student accepted this year, she will be joining another IWU alum, **Jacob Taitel '20** (BM, Tuba) who is completing a doctoral degree.

Lindsay Ring '21 was also the winner of the Young Adult Wind and Brass category prize of \$16,500 at the Music International Grand Prix in May. The competition was held in Virginia, where semifinalists from the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia performed for a panel of prestigious Judges from the U.S., England, France, and Germany.

Alumnus **Sam Sterbence '13** (BM, Euphonium) and **Lindsay Ring '21** (BME, Euphonium) were finalists for the Euphonium position for the Navy Fleet Band Auditions this past April.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

To receive the latest School of Music information (our newsletters and emails) as well as general information from Illinois Wesleyan University, be sure to keep your contact information up-to-date. To update your contact information, visit iwu.edu/update-info.

School of Music Leadership Council Updates

Following the first (virtual) meeting with the SOM Leadership Council in April, it's clear the Leadership Council will provide exceptional perspective, insight, and support for upcoming changes. As a result of the first meeting, the LC suggested adding younger alumni to the Council to provide important perspective. Please welcome the three newest members: **Josh Biere '07**, **Shireen Hassan '20**, and **Anna Karnick '17**.

The full School of Music Leadership Council is comprised of the following individuals:

Josh Biere '07, BM – Madison, WI
Principal tuba chair with Madison Symphony, clinician, teacher, and doctorate pursuing at UW-Wisconsin

Barrington Coleman '80, BM – Champaign, Illinois
Professor of Music, Univ. of Illinois
Director, Vocal Jazz Studies and Jazz Vocal Ensemble; Varsity Men's Glee Club

Todd French '93, BM – San Clemente, CA
President of StringWorks, Inc.; Founder of WineBerserkers; Co-Founder The Wine Check

Shireen Hassan '20, BM; BA, Accounting – Bloomington, IL
Assistant Financial Analyst, State Farm Insurance

Anna Karnick '17, BME – Seattle, WA
Director of Choirs, Chinook Middle School



Ben Killey '99, BM; BA, Biology – Seattle, WA
Emergency Medicine Physician

Wayne Messmer '72, BME – Glenview, IL
Performer, Dir. of Messmer Fin Services; Consultant

Susan Quittmeyer '75, BM – Warren, NJ
Opera singer; Voice professor:
Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts

David Rayl '77, BM – Okemos, MI
Professor of Music; Director of Choral Programs
Michigan St. University

Dawn Upshaw '82, BM – Rhinebeck, NY
Singer and Educator; Head of Vocal Arts Program,
Tanglewood Music Center

Further topics discussed by the Leadership Council included: effective recruiting efforts by our faculty, recently approved curriculum changes by the Illinois Wesleyan faculty, and discussion of future developments for the School of Music.

School of Music News

Ralla Klepak Foundation for Education in the Performing Grant Awarded

Two grants totaling \$600,000 have been awarded by the Ralla Klepak Foundation for Education in the Performing Arts to support Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Music community outreach programs, including an expansion of IWU's preparatory programs for local youth, along with the creation of a program that engages individuals with disabilities in music exploration.

A \$400,000 grant over the next three years will fund the Ralla Klepak Community Music Scholars program in an effort to increase access to preparatory music lessons for local disadvantaged youth and students, ages five to

18 years old, who have been traditionally underserved. The program will also diversify the types of instrument instruction and number of students studying those instruments in Illinois Wesleyan's Music Preparatory Programs, which have historically focused on piano and string instruments. Ralla Klepak Community Music Scholars will be encouraged to study voice, brass, woodwinds, percussion, and guitar, in addition to piano and string instruments.

An additional \$200,000 grant over the next three years will fund the Ralla Klepak Community Music Explorers

RALLA KLEPAK FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Program at Illinois Wesleyan University. Music education majors began working this May with local non-profit social service agencies, such as Marcfirst and Easterseal's Timber Pointe Outdoor Center, to develop and deliver curriculum that enhances existing music exploration programs for individuals with disabilities. Program designs will likely include participant engagement through a general introduction to music, singing, playing instruments, musical games, and instrument building.

Along with serving approximately 2,000 program participants each year, Illinois Wesleyan students will also have the opportunity to engage in research opportunities — through the Music Explorers Program — in areas such as sociology, psychology, elementary and secondary education, the humanities, and the arts.

"This grant is a tremendous opportunity for our music education students to provide thoughtful and engaging music experiences to community members with disabilities," said Assistant Professor of Music Education **Bradley Regier**. "The Music Explorers Program will also be a way for IWU students and faculty to engage in new and exciting avenues of impactful research."

The Ralla Klepak Foundation for Education in the Performing Arts is a private foundation which funds performing arts programs that support the vision of Ralla Klepak (1936-2019), a performing arts enthusiast, an educator, attorney, and a fierce advocate on behalf of disadvantaged youth and individuals with disabilities.

Collegiate Choir

On April 18, the **Collegiate Choir** presented the premiere of the 2020-21 contribution to the Collegiate Choir Commission Series. Composers Kinan Abou-afach (Syrian cellist/composer) and Diego Alonso (flamenco guitarist) each composed a movement of two songs for Hope and Unity. The texts are in Arabic and Spanish. Both composers accompanied the choir on their respective instruments.

Both choirs continue the longstanding tradition of commissions of new choral music: the '21-'22 Collegiate Choir Commission composer will be Reena Esmail and the 2022-23 Collegiate Choir Commission composer will be Imant Raminsh.



Alumni Spotlight

Nola Richardson '08



An Australian by birth, Nola has spent most of her life in the United States. She holds a BM from Illinois Wesleyan University and dual MM degrees in Vocal Performance and Early Music from the Peabody Conservatory. She was a young artist with the Boston Early Music Festival, a vocal fellow at Tanglewood, a Marc and Eva Stern Fellow at Songfest, and most recently, a Carmel Bach Festival Virginia Best Adams Fellow in 2019. Nola attended the

Institute of Sacred Music Program and in May of 2020 she was the first and only female singer to receive the prestigious DMA degree in Early Music Voice from Yale. To learn more about Nola, visit nolarichardson.com.

Recruitment Efforts

The School of Music is redoubling our recruitment efforts to enroll more talented students. With this in mind, we have great news – **Steve Eggleston**, former Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Music, Music Director and Conductor for Civic Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble, has graciously agreed to assist with student recruitment efforts and help continue to build and create relationships with high school music directors. He will work closely with professors **Sey Ahn**, **Ed Risinger**, and **Brad Regier**. Initial plans include virtual introductions this summer and fall, as well as in-person tours and high school visits.

If you have not met our awesome faculty, please schedule a virtual visit! We want to hear from you!

Dr. Sey Ahn, Director of Bands & Orchestra, sahn@iwu.edu

Prof. Ed Risinger, Head of Brass & Percussion, risinger@iwu.edu

Dr. Brad Regier, Director of Music Education, bregier@iwu.edu

If you know a talented and capable high school musician, please refer them to Laura Dolan, Recruitment Coordinator for Music at ldolan@iwu.edu or 309-556-3063.

Faculty News

Dr. Sey Ahn, visiting Assistant Professor of Music and Director of the IWU Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, was invited as conductor of the Missouri All-State Orchestra comprised of 79 string players whom were recognized during the annual Missouri Music Educators Association Conference. Dr. Ahn also presented a virtual session for the 2020 Louisiana Music Educators Association Conference.

Dr. Jiyoun Chung, composition professor, was the featured guest at the School of Music's Symposium of Contemporary Music. In May, Dr. Chung's compositions were performed at the Musica Prospettiva at Sala Fondazione Torrita Cultura Siena in Italy, the 33rd Pacific Northwest Regional Conference of The College Music Society, and the Society of Composers National Conference.

Dr. Scott Ferguson, Director of Choral Ensembles, is one of 50 international judges for the World Youth & Children Choral Artists' Association's 2021 World Choir Festival to be held virtually in May and June.

Dr. Franklin Larey delivered the keynote address at the IWU Martin Luther King events in January. He also delivered masterclasses and was a guest speaker at the University of Southern California and St. Olaf College, and served on the jury of the New Mexico MTNA Piano Competition.

Dr. Lisa Nelson presented "Solo & Ensemble and Festival: Exploring Works by Women Composers" and "Beyond Suzuki:

Elementary Method Books, Pedagogical Repertoire, and Recital Pieces for the Violin/Viola Studio" at the American String Teachers Association National Conference. She also performed Alexander Raichev's Aria for Solo Viola at three regional conferences of the College Music Society.

Dr. Moria Tunison, clarinet professor, published articles in the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors Journal this spring: "Lefèvre's Third Concerto Viewed Through the Lens of His Méthode de Clarinette: An Argument for Historical and Pedagogical Performance Practice"; "Teaching Younger Students During COVID"; "Creating a Meaningful Studio Class for a Small Studio." She was a finalist at the 2020 International Clarinet Association Research Competition for her research on Lefèvre. She also was appointed to the International Clarinet Association Youth Committee and served on the committee's panel "Connecting the Pre-Professional Clarinetist to Digital Clarinet Resources in the 21st Century: Approaches, Ideas, and Discussion" as part of the ICA Plays On! professional conference.

Saxophone **Professor Glenn Wilson's** non-profit Further Jazz, Inc. received a \$1,500 grant from Illinois Prairie Community Foundation to produce concerts at the Normal Theater involving jazz films/concerts. The IWU Jazz Festival has been awarded a grant from the IPCF for \$2,100 to produce the 2022 Jazz Festival.

Supporting the School of Music



All In for Wesleyan

Gifts made on IWU's annual day of giving, All In for Wesleyan, to the School of Music could be directed to scholarship funds to enroll more music students or to the Enhanced Recruitment Fund. All In was a wonderful success and it was an encouraging day for the School of Music. Alumni, parent, and friend generosity and support raised over \$20,000 for scholarship funds and the Enhanced Recruitment Fund exceeded \$4,000. **Thank you to those who contributed to the School of Music during All In!**

Mike '62 BME and Karen '63 Gibson Scholarships

Announcing two new scholarships for music students. Mike and Karen created an annual scholarship for music students in 2019. Recently, in addition to supporting an annual scholarship, Mike and Karen decided to create an endowed scholarship which will provide funding in perpetuity to a deserving music student. Thank you Mike and Karen for supporting scholarships for School of Music students!

To learn more about giving opportunities to the School of Music, visit iwu.edu/giving/som or contact Bob Murray, Associate Vice President of Advancement Strategy, at bmurray@iwu.edu or 309-825-8624.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

To receive the latest School of Music information (our newsletters and emails) as well as general information from Illinois Wesleyan University, be sure to keep your contact information up-to-date. To update your contact information, visit iwu.edu/update-info.

