NKU Voice Faculty Member Accepted for Prestigious Seminar at the Met

After a vigorous national audition process, which included a final live audition at New York City’s Metropolitan Opera House, faculty member Grant Knox has been selected as one of six artists to participate in the pilot season of the Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar at The Crane School of Music (SUNY Potsdam). Led by American mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and collaborative pianist Dr. Allan Smith, the mission of the program is to encourage autonomous artistry in emerging artist-level performers. The one-week program will provide daily coachings along with time for research and personal exploration before coming together to share and discuss music making, related aesthetics, and what it means to be a performing artist in today’s society. The seminar will focus on art song in English, which is my main area of interest. The final performance will feature all of the participants in a public recital with Ms. Blythe and Dr. Smith.

NKU Vocal Students Take Top State Honors at National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition

NKU students participated in the State NATS competition this past October at Morehead State University. We had 23 students and 4 faculty represent NKU. This was the first time in all my years of going to NATS that the students and faculty bonded and supported each other.

Chelsea Fries and Anna Eagan were selected to represent NKU in a Master Class with Clifton Ware, who is a well-known pedagogy from the University of Minnesota and who has written several books about vocal pedagogy.

We also had 23 students who made it to the Semi-Finals and 9 students in the Finals.

Our new faculty member, Dr. Grant Knox had 3 students in Finals:
- Tim Oliver, 1st place (Senior Men)
- Andrew Whelan, 1st place (Junior Men)
- Adam Seibert, 2nd place (Junior Men)

Gayle Grout had 6 students in Finals:
- Michele Asher, 1st place (Advanced Women)
- Kristen Whalen, 1st place (Senior Women)
- Chelsea Fries, 2nd place (Senior Women)
- Anna Egan, 3rd Place (Junior Women)
- Jamie Martin, 1st place (Adult Beginner)
- Meaghan Spencer, 2nd place (Freshman Women)

Kristen Whalen won outstanding award for overall best performer

Our two other colleagues, Joy Burdette and Esther Nam had students in the semi-finals. We were all proud of our students and our wonderful accompanists, Alex Thio and Yu-Wen Yang.
Piano Pedagogy Students Present at the University of Michigan

Diana Belland just returned back from the 2012 Piano Pedagogy Symposium at U of Mich. in Ann Arbor. Two of our piano pedagogy students (Natasha Pence and Rachel Royer) were invited to present at this inaugural event which featured MTNA collegiate chapters from throughout the country. Incidentally, all of the other Collegiate Chapters members, including those from the four other chapters at University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, Brigham Young University and University of North Florida were graduate students. Diana related the good news to me that the students’ presentation was very well received by the audience. Rebecca Grooms Johnson, Vice President of Music Teachers National Association, even approached Natasha and Rachel and encouraged them to submit an article about the NKU chapter’s activities to the MTNA e-Journal.

Congratulations to Diana and her students for this impressive accomplishment which helps put NKU on the national map!

Tri-State Band Symposium Draws Over 100 to Perform at NKU

Under the leadership of Brant Karrick, the NKU Tri-State Band Symposium turned out to be a great success. We had over 100 high school instrumentalists on the campus of NKU to participate in this regional two-day event. The guest director was Andrew Boysen, a renowned conductor/composer who currently teaches at the University of New Hampshire. Many of our adjunct and full-time faculty participated in listening to auditions, presenting mini-seminars, and speaking with students about our program and their instrumental area. We plan to follow-up with these students in a mailing noting upcoming opportunities at NKU.

Thank you to all who participated and especially to Brant who, despite fighting pneumonia, managed to pull the event together for another successful year.

Internationally Renowned Composer Libby Larsen to Visit NKU Music with Concert at NKU's Digitorium

The NKU Department of Music will be hosting a concert celebrating the music of American composer, Libby Larsen. A joint venture between NKU and the SongFest Festival, this concert will feature Music Department faculty and students in the Digitorium, Griffin Hall’s unique and inviting state-of-the-art facility. Libby Larsen is one of America’s most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 400 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over fifteen operas. Grammy Award winning and widely recorded, including over fifty CD’s of her work, she is constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles, and orchestras around the world, and has established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertory. Special thanks to faculty member Grant Knox for his work on organizing this.
Northern Kentucky University’s Department of Music offers a full range of performance and education opportunities to music majors. Our graduates pursue successful careers as professional performers, college and university faculty, public school music teachers, private studio instructors and in allied fields within the music industry.

Our students have been accepted for graduate study at such renowned institutions as the Juilliard School, Indiana University–Bloomington, The San Francisco Conservatory of Music, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Iowa State University, the Eastman School of Music, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Nota Bene is a great way for students and alumni to advertise their talents and services—for free! Send us your information (instrument, band or ensemble name, contact information, etc.) and we’ll feature it here in the Talent Connection! Each issue of Nota Bene reaches over 1000 people. You never know where your next gig will come from!

This issue of Nota Bene was designed and edited by Rick Endres, Publicity Manager of NKU Music—endresr1@nku.edu