



Nitza Kats selected VMTA Teacher of the Year

Pianist Nitza Kats, Associate Professor of Music, was presented the Teacher of the Year award by the Virginia Music Teachers Association at the annual state conference held this year at Shenandoah Conservatory in early November. The VMTA has some nine hundred members and is part of the Music Teachers National Association which is the oldest professional music teachers organization in the United States, founded in 1874. The Highlands Chapter, the local chapter of the VMTA, nominated Mrs. Kats for the award in honor of the anniversary of her thirty years of service to the chapter and 25 years of service organizing the Rebecca Orr Memorial Benefit Concert and the Rebecca Orr Memorial Technique Festival, two events which Mrs. Kats created in honor of her former student who was tragically killed by a drunk driver during her first year of studies at Oberlin College.

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New Performing Arts Center Under Construction

The Covington Performing Arts Center is well under construction. Faculty and students have enjoyed watching the quick progress over this fall semester. The new building will house rehearsal halls, a recital hall, an art gallery, faculty and department offices and a student resource center.

The Covington Center is scheduled to open in Fall 2008.

(photo courtesy of Lauren Willner)



Donald George in Austria and China...

Imagine the small town of Maurach in the Austrian Alps, surrounded by rocky peaks shrouded in the morning mists and looking down at beautiful Lake Achen with the World Championships in Wind Surfing, and the colorful sails of the contestants sprinkling the blue surface. The people all greet each other with Grüß Gott (often shortened to S'Gott) which

means God Be With You, and leave you with a "P'fürti Gott" or God Guide You. Yes, indeed, this is a blessed and beautiful corner of the world. This is the backdrop for the Tyrolean Opera Program Festival otherwise known by its initials of TOP. And TOP it is with excellent teachers and artists, even Roanoke's Opera Director, Steven White and his wife

Elizabeth Futral, were there giving master classes, along with myself. There were excellent students who came from all over the world to enjoy the program. Radford's own soprano, Ashley Morgan, traveled from Virginia to this mountain musical retreat, enjoying the lessons and courses with even a chance to work with the famous Austrian yodeler: Elisabeth Larch.

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Faculty News

Donald George in Austria and China...

Excellent Austrian cuisine, with famous Austrian pastries and sweets were enjoyed by all the participants, with opportunities to visit the Festivals of Salzburg, Innsbruck, Bregenz and the Wagner Festival in Erl, where *Tristan und Isolde* was heard. The activities the participants were able to experience were varied indeed. Of course all participants were able to show their talents, and experiment with their newly learned skills in various concerts in venues all around the area. They sang in theaters and ancient churches, culminating in the final concert in which Ashley Morgan prepared a delightful rendition of Mozart's "L'ho Perduta" from *The Marriage of Figaro*, in which she was searching all through the course of the performance until at the end of the concert she finally found "it". Not only did Ashley find "it", but we all found it a terrific and fulfilling experience in the Tyrolean Alps. Auf Wiedersehen! And P'fürti Gott! At the TOP Festival in 2008!

Excerpts from the China journal of Donald George in Shenyang, capitol of Liaoning Province.
Shenyang Conservatory of Music

Arrival May 13th

I arrived in Beijing, yesterday afternoon after a night flight from Munich, landing with an hour's delay. Having to go thru customs, luggage pickup and passport control, and somehow with a lack of English signs I was able to get my flight to Shenyang with about 5 minutes to spare. In Shenyang I was immediately greeted by 3 delightful people at the airport with flowers and effusive cries of welcome. I could have sworn they knew me but it seems to be the Chinese manner of making you feel at home.

We all merrily climbed into a van and off we were to deposit my suitcase in a nice apartment (very Chinese looking lacquered furniture and shiny gold brocade curtains), which overlooks a construction site (the entire city is being re-planned and re-built for the Olympics....the football -*soccer*- games will be held here) and a large square which is also used as a sport/kite-flying place. The

first morning at 7:30 when a florid loud burst of trumpets (and scratchy recording) rocked the area, I wondered what was happening. About 10 minutes later the square was filled with students doing Tai Chi and a guy with a megaphone was drilling them. At least I won't have to worry about an alarm clock, who knows one morning I



may join them and try a Tai Chi Morning Workout. (I never did)

May 14th:

I worked with 4 excellent students today, what voices! Their style of singing has stylistic challenges, but the voices are healthy and beautiful! One tenor sang an 18th cent. baroque aria in a 19th cent. verismo style, beautiful but not stylistic, as was the second bass who sang Sarastro like a dramatic Verdi baritone. The 2 female voices were better in their style. Impressive to hear -such healthy voices - and also to experience such incredibly concentrated students who can do what I ask, or try so hard that it is impressive to watch and admire.

Tomorrow I have 4 more different students singing the hardest arias in the repertoire....The Vocal Director, told me that with a few hundred voice students to choose from it is not hard to do. There are 3000 music students and around 800 voice

students. I was also asked to give master classes to and teach some of the voice professors who were very interested in bel canto.

May 30th

Today was my first of two big master classes in the auditorium, about 300 kids at times (some had to go to class etc.) In the middle of the first aria the electricity went off with huge pop, again it was the city doing something! We were in complete darkness. So we all traipsed to the chorus room (thru the rain) then when the electricity came back on, off we went to the auditorium again! Anyway it was a

good Master class... Wonderful students sang "Pace, Pace" from *Forza del Destino*, "Dies Bildniss" from *Zauberlöte*, "Avant ce Quitter" from *Faust*, and "Parmi, veder le lagrime" from *Rigoletto*.

June 4th

Tonight I sang my song recital. It was quite an experience because the cameras flashed during the entire performance. I was later told that most people loved the different electronic projections Ted MsKosky of Radford had made, so they took multiple pictures! After the concert it is the custom of the Chinese to give flowers, especially if you know the person....I received 50 bouquets. The flowers kept coming until the stage took the appearance of a rather gaudy wedding.

June 9th

Today I had the great news that I was to be named an Honored Professor of the Conservatory, for my contributions to

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Faculty News

Bruce Mahin wins RU Distinguished Creative Scholar Award



Professor of music Bruce P. Mahin received the Distinguished Creative Scholar Award at graduation ceremonies in May 2007. The award was established to recognize faculty who have a consistent and sustained record of creative contributions to their academic discipline.

Dr. Mahin joined the RU faculty in 1989, and since has been a dedicated teacher, advisor and administrator while remaining professionally active in the field of music. During his tenure, Dr. Mahin has helped establish the Center for

Technology and was instrumental in creating the first bachelor's of music/music technology program. In addition, he has authored a comprehensive curriculum in computer music at RU which features a digital ensemble, courses in software development and courses in live multimedia performance and research. His works are performed internationally and published in score and recordings. His studies of non-linear form in art, music and poetry have been published internationally in French and English.

David Zuschin

In spring of 2007, Dr. David Zuschin was invited to become one of the inaugural authors of a new peer-reviewed journal titled *Intersections*. The journal provides a venue for scholars from various academic fields to publish innovative work that is the result of "intersections" between disciplines, and between teaching and technology. The article, which Zuschin co-wrote with John Hildreth, Director of the Technology in Learning Center, is titled "Developing the Listening Mind: the iPod as an Educational Tool for the Study of Music." It discusses the pilot program he conducted in 2005-2006 with students in his music history class, and the dramatic improvements he saw in student performance on the listening identification portion of exams that were the result of an interactive application that he and Hildreth had developed for the iPod. Zuschin presented the article at the Education Leadership Summit held at Stanford University on August 15. The article was published in the fall issue of *Intersections*, and can be viewed at <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/collection.php?collection=776>.

Robert Trent

Dr. Robert Trent, Professor of Music (Guitar) was invited to perform this past summer at the Rantucci International Guitar Festival and Competition in Buffalo, NY. His chamber ensemble, Duo Firenze (with Pamela Trent, forte-piano) performed before a packed house at the Albright-Knox Gallery. Additionally, Dr. Trent gave a lecture on improvisation in 19th c. music and adjudicated the Rantucci International Guitar Festival.

Duo Firenze is the recent recipient of a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and has been selected for the Performing Arts Directory. Dr. Trent's solo CD featuring the 10-stringed Scherzer guitar is in production and is scheduled for release in early 2008.

Donald George in China, continued

the Bel Canto Arts. I was invited to a banquet where I was given a chance to eat some bugs...hmm. They did not taste like "chicken" but were not bad.

June 13th

I had a great "send off" today. Quite a group came to meet me and go with me to the airport. Na Yu, Shi Shi (or Shawn, he's going to study medicine in CA next year and is working in the English Dept this semester. He grew up in Philly), the Professors Hu Dong Ye, and Li Xiao Dan and Huang He of the International Office. For Hu Dong Ye it was a first trip to the airport at all, so he was a bit excited about that. The memories of such a marvelous culture and such a varied and interesting populace is something that will remain in the memory. Zai Jian or Good bye to China until the next time.

Faculty Recital:

David Phillips, piano

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

8:00 p.m. Preston Hall



Lucy Mauro

Lucy Mauro, Assistant Professor of Music, has been performing several recitals with fellow faculty member tenor Donald George, Assistant Professor of Music. This fall, they have toured with their program, "The Old Wicked Songs of Heinrich Heine," performing to much acclaim at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, West Virginia University, Marshall University, Longwood University, Western Illinois University and Concord University. Other upcoming performances include the University of Missouri at Columbia and for the International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu. This fall they have also presented a workshop,

"Developing Musical Expression and Communication: What Pianists Can Learn From Singers" at Radford University and for the Blue Ridge Music Teachers Association and faculty and students at Emory and Henry College.



They were also selected to present their new program "Fair Maidens, Magic Harps and Castles By the Sea: Rediscovering the Romantic Melodramas of Schubert, Schumann, Liszt, Wagner

and Strauss" at the prestigious National Conference of the Music Teachers National Association in Denver in April.

Other upcoming performances with Mr. George include a presentation on the German *Melodram* at Shepherd University and concerts at Longwood University and Radford University with tenor Christopher Swanson.

Along with these performances, Dr. Mauro was also an adjudicator this fall for the Virginia Music Teachers Association MTNA state competition and for the Sonatina Festival held at East Tennessee State University. She also presented a master class for the Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Music Teachers Association.

Jaime Walsh wins 2007 thesis award

Jaime Walsh (MA MUSIC '07) received the Radford University best research thesis award for her analysis of works by Gershwin, Bernstein and Copland. The principal advisor on her thesis was Dr. Bruce Mahin, professor of music. Ms. Walsh completed a rhythmic analysis of one orchestral work by each composer and compared rhythmic cells found in these works to those typically found in the popular music of Cuba. Bernstein, Copland and Gershwin wrote music immediately following independent trips to Cuba. This led Ms. Walsh to surmise that the visits had influenced the composers music. Indeed, conclusions in the thesis document clear connections between the rhythms used in these concert works by American composers and those documented in Cuban popular music. Ms. Walsh catalogued over 75 rhythmic cells and variants in the music which were then traced to established dance rhythms found in Cuban popular music.

Through the course of her thesis, Ms. Walsh also presented a stylistic analysis, which considered rhythms, orchestrations, textures, and harmonies of each of the three composers in order to compare and contrast the individual traits which make each composer's music unique.

Jaime started the first five years of her teaching career at Glenvar Elementary School, where she also taught at Fort Lewis Elementary and Penn Forest Elementary schools. For the past two years, she has been teaching at Herman L. Horn Elementary. Jaime has directed several musicals each year and has been a member of the Roanoke County Teachers' Association, the Virginia Teachers' Association, the Music Educators' National Conference, as well as the social, climate, community relations, business partnership, diversity committees at Glenvar Elementary, and instructional committee at Herman L. Horn Elementary.

During her teaching career, Jaime attended Radford University to pursue her Master's Degree. In addition to her research and teaching elementary school music, for the past 7 years, Jaime has been running a small studio where she teaches private piano and clarinet lessons. She plans to continue teaching elementary music and hopes to get her thesis as well as curricular materials published in the future. Jaime hopes to one day pursue her PhD in music theory as well.



University Percussion Ensemble

Al Wojtera, Director

March 24, 2008

8:00 p.m. Preston Hall- Ken Bondurant Auditorium

News From the Department....

Music Therapy Provides Campus Drum Circles

The Music Therapy Program, under the direction of Professor Jim Borling, was called upon to bring the experience of a campus-wide drum circle to our academic community. After the shootings of April 16, 2007 at Virginia Tech, Radford University was looking for ways to honor and support our friends who had lost so much. Additionally, the need to be present with our own experience of these events was essential. As the Dean of Students Office prepared for a Candlelight Vigil on the RU campus, they contacted the Music Therapy Program to provide a Drum Circle to "lead off" the events around this vigil. The music therapy students, along with the strong support of the administration, provided an opportunity for those on the RU campus to gather in community and to feel the power and connection through the experience of drumming. The Dedmon Center provided the perfect setting as administrators, faculty, staff, and students all gathered for this time of reflection and support.

Upon returning for the fall semester 2007, the Music Therapy Program again was asked to provide a

campus drum circle experience. This time, in anticipation of our need to 're-group', an event was held on Heth Lawn August 22, 2007. Again, members of the campus community came together with a focus on "Community, Resilience, and Empowerment". As is often the case, the collective energy and rhythm brought a real sense of

ence is still remembered today by staff and administration as one of the more powerful events to happen in a community time of need. Since then, there have been events in response to Hurricane Katrina, the Homeland Security Conference, 'Take Back the Night', and more as students from the music therapy program

find ways to be of service to the immediate academic community and the community at large.

Throughout history drumming has been used in 'communities' around the world as a ritual process to address issues large in scope. The focus may be cultural, it might be social or spiritual; but in virtually all cases it is used when the needs of that identified community are deep and beyond the grasp of a conscious understanding.

Within the field of music therapy, we know that drumming is an opportunity for people to come together and experience what is needed in a characteristically non-verbal manner. When we do this, we complement our natural need to 'verbally explain' and 'socially contextualize'.

Bravo to the students of the Music Therapy Program at Radford University. They have stepped up and come together when the community called.



connection and gentle power. It was a wonderful way to *affirm* the power of music, community, and renewal.

The history of campus drum circles goes back to September 11, 2001 when the attacks on the World Trade Center occurred in New York City. Then, students from the Music Therapy Program provided what was the first in a series of campus drum circles just 2 days after the attacks took place. That particular experi-

Liebeslieder Waltzes

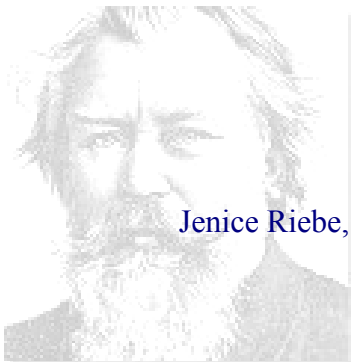
Wednesday, January 30

8:00 p.m.

Norwood Room

Jenice Riebe, soprano Donald George, tenor David Castonguay, baritone
and special guest Freda Herseth, mezzo-soprano

Nitza Kats and Lucy Mauro, piano



Amy Donnellan



Amy Donnellan is a senior at Radford University. Amy was born and raised on Nantucket Island, a small island located off Massachusetts. She will be graduating from Radford in the fall of 2008 with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Music with a dance minor. Her principle instrument is the piano and has been studying with Dr. Phillips for the past three semesters. This semester she is

excited to also be involved with the women's choral group, and a piano trio. Upon graduation she intends to go back to school to study film score and composition and eventually hopes to live in NYC to further her career in the music industry. Amy loves to travel and is greatly looking forward to spending a semester abroad, for her last semester, in the fall of 2008 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Leah Christian

Leah Christian is a fourth year student double majoring in Music (B.A.) and Recreation Therapy. Since transferring to Radford in the fall of 2006, she has studied piano in the studio of Dr. David Phillips. Leah has participated in The Rebecca Orr Technique Festival, the Highlands Chapter of the VMTA recitals, in addition to various performance and master classes She is also an Arts Society Scholarship recipient and just this semester was chosen for the Fall Honors Recital.

In addition to the piano, Leah plays the guitar and is also a vocalist. She loves spending many hours "jamming" with her friends and making up songs. Outside of the Music Department, Leah is actively involved

in Chi Alpha campus ministry and bible study.

When she finds time for recreation in between her busy schedule, she enjoys outdoor activities, reading, watching classic movies, and spending time with her family. Leah plans on graduating in the spring of 2009.



Kimberly Slack

Kimberly Slack is a junior music therapy major and music education major from Batavia, Illinois. Kimberly is currently studying trumpet with Tom Bithell, and performs in Radford's Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble. She has performed for church services with Brass Quintets, and performed in the Radford University production *The Nutcracker* in 2006. Kimberly takes great pride in being Vice President of Membership of the Eta Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, Treasurer of MENC, and a member of IAJE.

This semester Kimberly performed on the Honor's Recital and on the Student Conductor's Concert.



When Kimberly is not playing music she enjoys playing football, going on hikes, traveling to new and familiar places, and going to musical events.

Fall Honors Recital Winners

*Justin Johnson
Kimberly Slack
Carl Scales
Leah Christian
Andrea Walker*

St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre

*April 10, 2008
8:00 p.m.*

Ken Bondurant Auditorium—Preston Hall

Paul Hamilton



Paul Hamilton is a senior from Woodbridge, Virginia and is a graduate of Gar-Field Senior High School. Since being introduced to the trombone by his parents, Paul has been playing the instrument for ten years. He is majoring in both Computer Science and Music Education. He is also a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, MENC, and is the president of IAJE.

While at Radford University, he has performed on the Spring 2007 Honors' Recital, played on *The Nutcracker*,

and performs with the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and with the Radford University Jazztet. When he graduates from Radford University, he would like to pursue a career in either dealing with music or in the Information Technology field, or if possible, connecting both together.

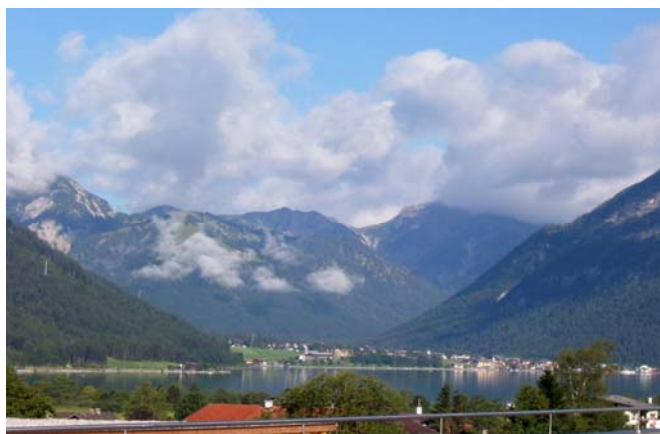
Whenever there is free time, Paul enjoys relaxing with friends, and playing "pickup" games of sports in the outdoors.

Ashley Morgan in Austria



Music Education major Ashley Morgan attended the TOP Opera festival this past summer in Maurach, Austria. At the festival, Ashley attended German lessons, dance classes, acting classes and voice lessons and participated in performances. Her voice teacher at Radford University, Assistant Professor of Music Donald George, performed at the festival this summer and is a master teacher on their faculty (see article on page 1). Pictured above is Ashley in Austria on the right, with her roommate at the festival Dominica Klinger.

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Maurach, Austria, site of TOP Opera festival

Alumni Profile: Shawn Hundley

Shawn Hundley attended Radford University where he received his BM in music composition, studying with Bruce Mahin and Daniel Crozier. Shawn began graduate studies in 1997 at Florida State University studying composition with Ladislav Kubik and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. His works have been performed at numerous festivals and conferences. Among recent commissions and honors, Evocations for string quartet was awarded second prize in the Eppes String Quartet Competition with a premiere in 2004.

Shawn has attended the Czech-American Summer Music Institute in Pra-

gue, Czech Republic where he received a premiere of Four Pieces for Piano in the Dvorak Museum. In the spring of 2005, he received a Charles Ives Scholarship from the Academy of Arts and Letters. "Dulce et decorum est", a work for chorus, orchestra and vocal solos premiered in a chamber version under the direction of Andre Thomas in February, 2006. After completing work towards the doctorate in 2004, he currently teaches piano, composition and music theory at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida.

University Jazz Ensemble
Christopher White, director

Tuesday, April 8

8:00 p.m.

Ken Bondurant Auditorium
Preston Hall