MUSIC FACULTY NOMINATED FOR GRAMMYS //

The 2019 CD Recording “The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom” written by NKU SOTA Music faculty composer Kurt Sander has been nominated for a 2020 Grammy Award for the category of “Best Choral Performance.” The 2 CD set features the PaTRAM Institute Singers led by conductor Peter Jermihov. The recording was released in May of 2019 on the Reference Recordings label and hit the number one spot on Amazon for new Vocal/Opera releases shortly after its release. The 90-minute work by Sander is one of the first English-language settings of the Eastern Orthodox liturgy and immediately received critical acclaim in such influential magazines as Fanfare and American Record Guide.

Jason Vest, faculty member in the NKU SOTA music program and Assistant Provost at NKU, has been nominated for a Grammy with his group Conspirare for Best Choral Performance for their recording of “The Hope of Loving.” He also performed on the Vocal Arts Ensemble recording of “Canticle” that was included in Blanton Alspaugh’s nomination for Classical Producer of the Year.

Also congratulations to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and our CSO-affiliated music faculty for “Transatlantic” being nominated for Best Orchestral Performance.

- Michael Culligan, Adjunct Faculty, percussion; CSO Associate Principal Percussion
- Scott Lang, Senior Lecturer & Percussion Coordinator; CSO extra percussion
- Owen Lee, Adjunct Faculty, bass; CSO Principal Bass
- Dwight Parry, Adjunct Faculty, oboe; CSO Principal Oboe

Current Senior BFA Dance Candidate, Alex Bellocq, is spending his senior year at Hebrew University in Jerusalem as a part of their Music and Dance Conservatory. While attending the American College Dance Association in 2018 with a cohort of BFA Dance Candidates, Alex met Director of International Programs and Hebrew University, Paul Bloom, and was introduced to this opportunity. After completing a majority of his degree requirements on NKU’s campus and with the support of professors in theatre and dance, Michael Hatton and Tracey Bonner, Alex applied and was accepted into the program for the 2019-2020 academic season. He is also the recipient of the Konstantinow Scholarship through the Theatre and Dance Program.

The year-long program includes work with the Gaga technique developed by Ohad Naharin, Artistic Director the Batsheva Dance Company, and work with esteemed Israeli artists Adi Zlatin, Matan David, Ido Gidron, and Hsin-Yi Hsiang, and the Vertigo dance company. This program also includes an immersive study in the Hebrew language called the ‘Ulpan,” and Bellocq is developing new insight into his artistic understanding, movement development, and personal humanity through this experience.

Bellocq states that “Being immersed in Israeli culture has been one of the most challenging, yet enlightening experiences of my life. Learning how to live, speak, read, and interact with a culture that is contrary to all I’ve ever known has taught me so much about being a person, how important it is to take risks, how much alike we all are in the world, and how wonderful our differences are.”

SOTA is thrilled to share news regarding some of our top instrumental students who have recently been selected to perform with the 2020 Kentucky Intercollegiate Band. The ensemble, comprised of top students from all of Kentucky’s universities, will rehearse Feb. 5-6 and present a concert the evening of Thursday, Feb. 6 as part of the Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference.

The students who will be representing NKU in the Intercollegiate Band are:

- Madison Herzner, Oboe
- Nicole Ortiz, Bb Clarinet
- Hannah Winstel, Bb Clarinet
- JanCarlo Bustamante, Bass Clarinet
- Jimmy Tober, Contrabass Clarinet
- Kevin Patrick, Tenor Saxophone
- Devan Gunnels, Baritone Saxophone
- Quinn Caney, Trumpet
- Victor Cabezas, Horn
- Sabrina Harrison, Horn
- Christian Davis, Trombone
- Delaan Sumler, String Bass
SOTA STUDENTS PERFORM AT NATS

Two SOTA Music Voice professors (Kimberly Lazzeri and Joy Burdette) and two Music Program collaborative pianists (Dasom Kwon and Bob Conda) accompanied 11 SOTA students from both Music and Theatre + Dance to the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions held on Nov. 8-9, 2019 at Murray State University. Of those 11 students, six advanced to the Semifinals. Of those six, one advanced to the Finals: Ezra Crist (BFA Musical Theatre) placed third in the Lower College Music Theatre TBB category. Ezra is the voice student of former NKU Theatre professor Catherine Keen.

A highlight of the NATS event was a master class with renowned vocal composer, Lori Laitman. Two of Kimberly’s voice students (Ashley Tinch and Aubrey Wirth) applied and were selected to participate in the master class. The students performed beautifully alongside their collaborative pianist Dasom Kwon, and were a shining representation of the talented students at NKU SOTA!

NATS Participants (with teachers’ initials)
• Preliminaries: Katie Boyd (KL), Willow Davis (JB), Kelly Even (CK), Sabrina Mack (JB), Lydia Wira (KL)
• Semifinals: Trey Finkenstead (CK), Mariah Osborne (JB), Shelby Thornsberry (JB), Ashley Tinch (KL), Aubrey Wirth (KL)
• Finals: Ezra Crist (CK)

SOTA will be participating in Mid-South NATS Student Auditions at the University of Louisville in March.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS

SOTA is excited to announce this year’s NKU Philharmonic Concerto Competition winners!

Victor Cabezas, horn (College division)
Performing Vinter, Hunter’s Moon
Student of Linda Glover; acc. by Bob Conda

John Neihaus, viola (Youth Orchestra division)
Performing Telemann, Viola Concerto, mvts. I and II
Student of William Herzog; acc. by Bob Conda

Kyle Ledbetter, cello (Youth Orchestra division)
Performing Elgar, Concerto in E Minor, mvt. I
Student of Lee Griffiths; acc. by Geary Randall

Nicole Ortiz, clarinet (College division)
Performing Weber, Concertino
Student of Krista Weiss; acc. by Bob Conda

A special thanks to this year’s external adjudication panel: Angela Jackson, Colerain Public Schools; Felipe Morales-Torres, Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra and Forest Hills School District; and Stephen Wadsack, Wilmington College.

Thank you to all the pianists who accompanied musicians at tonight’s competition: Bob Conda, Grace Lee, Geary Randall, Michael Spresser and Christina Seal.

Congratulations to all on a showing of wonderful accomplishment and diligent work! Winners will perform with the Philharmonic Orchestra on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MCKYNLEIGH ALDEN

McKynleigh Alden (Acting ‘15) has been part of a traveling revival production of “Once On This Island,” a Tony Award-winning musical. paducahsun.com/news/local/broadway-tour-brings-paducah-native-home/article_75b568b9-b78d-5ac6-ae17-1ab69c6ed80f.html
UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2020 //

TRI-STATE BAND SYMPOSIUM
Jan. 16-18 | Greaves Concert Hall
Concert: Jan. 18, 2:30 p.m.

FE20: FULL AND PART-TIME FACULTY EXHIBITION
Jan. 17-Feb. 21 | Main Gallery
Reception: Jan. 23, 5-7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2020 //

FREDERIC CHIU
Friday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

PIANO PEDAGOGY CONFERENCE
Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Greaves Hall

JAZZ COMBOS I+II ($)
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

SYMPHONIC WINDS + CONCERT BAND ($) Thursday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

H.M.S. PINAFORI ($)
Feb. 21-March 1 | Corbett Theatre

VOCAL JAZZ ($) Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ($) Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

JAZZ ENSEMBLE ($) Thursday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

FACULTY RECITAL: MEGHAN BENNETT, FLUTE Friday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

MARCH 2020 //

CHORAL CONCERT
Monday, March 2, 7 p.m. | Cathedral Basilica - Covington

LATIN JAZZ + R&B COMBOS ($) Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

JAZZ COMBO III + JAZZ GUITAR ENSEMBLE ($) Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

JURIED STUDENT EXHIBITION
March 6-April 3 | Main Gallery
Artist & Awards Reception: April 2, 5-7 p.m.

DANCE ’20 ($) March 6-7 | Corbett Theatre

COMMUNITY TROMBONE CHOIR Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

BURIED CHILD ($) March 26-April 5 | Stauss Theatre

COMPOSITION AREA RECITAL Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

APRIL + MAY 2020 //

KEYBOARD AREA RECITAL Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

RENE MARIE, SPECIAL GUEST VOCALIST Saturday, April 4, 8 p.m. | Corbett Theatre

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE Monday, April 6, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

FACULTY JAZZ ($) Tuesday, April 7, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

JAZZ COMBOS I+II ($) Thursday, April 9, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

STRING AREA RECITAL Monday, April 13, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

BFA SENIOR EXHIBITIONS April 16-May 1 | Main Gallery
Talks & Reception: April 16, 3:30-7 p.m.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE ($) Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

SYMPHONIC WINDS + CHOIRS ($) Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

COLLEGIATE WOMEN’S CHORUS FESTIVAL Saturday, April 18, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Sunday, April 19, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

BURDETT STUDIO VOICE RECITAL Monday, April 20, 7 p.m. | Choir Room

VOCAL JAZZ ($) Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

MAMMA MIA! ($) April 24-May 3 | Corbett Theatre

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ($) Thursday, April 23, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

PREP PRIVATE LESSON RECITAL Saturday, April 25, 2 & 4 p.m. | Greaves Hall

STRING PROJECT Sunday, April 26, 4:30 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

STEEL BAND Monday, April 27, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

LATIN JAZZ + R&B COMBOS ($) Tuesday, April 28, 7 p.m. | York St. Café

CONCERT BAND + CONNER HS BAND ($) Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

GETTING TO KNOW… OKLAHOMA!
Friday-Saturday, May 15-16, 7 p.m. | Corbett Theatre

SUBMIT YOUR STORIES

Have something newsworthy?
We would love to hear from you.

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MAILING LIST

Sign-up online at nku.edu/sotamail
or call 859-572-5464

MOVING FORWARD

The SOTA State of the Arts Newsletter will be switching over to a bi-weekly email format starting January 2020. We encourage you to sign-up for our mailing list at nku.edu/sotamail.