

April 2000

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES

Formal audition dates for Fall 2000 entrance to the School of Music are:

Friday, March 24, 2000

Saturday, March 25, 2000

Please contact Lynn Slater at 815-753-1546 or e-mail her at lslater@niu.edu for details. Let us know if you have students that are interested in auditioning for us!

IMPORTANT DATES

University Open Houses

4/21/2000 *Good Friday*

9:00 - 3:00 Campus

12 - 2:00 Music Building tours & ensemble visits

UPCOMING RECITALS/CONCERTS

For an up-to-date listing of the upcoming on-campus faculty and student recitals/concerts, visit our [Concert Schedule](#).

FACULTY NEWS

Ronnie Wooten is one of three faculty on campus to receive the 2000 Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. *William Goldenberg* is one of three faculty on campus to be acknowledged as a 2000 Presidential Teaching Professor. After five years, his title will change to Distinguished Teaching Professor. These two awards are the highest honors in recognition of teaching on campus. Congratulations to both of them!

Rich Holly, Assistant Chair and Professor of Percussion, was just notified that he is one of two final candidates for the position of Vice President of the Percussive Arts Society, the world's largest single-instrument society with over 7,000 members worldwide. The PAS Board of Directors will vote this summer. Good Luck, Rich!

Jim Phelps presented performances and lectures in Havana, Kuala Lumpur, and St. Louis. The piece performed, "academix," was also released on a new conference CD, "Music Technology in the New Millennium" by Universiti Putra Malaysia. "academix" was also

performed in San Antonio and Oberlin over the past few weeks. Jim is headed to Chengdu, China in May to present more lectures and concerts. A new work, "Thirty Comfortable Days," will be premiered at the Annex Group's annual event on April 19, 2000 at NIU.

The *Vermeer Quartet* completed its annual Spring tour in Europe this March with concerts in Holland, Germany, and Austria. The tour included the European premiere of *Night Fields* by Joan Tower, who is considered to be among the best living American composers. The Vermeer's next concert at NIU will be April 12 at 8 p.m. The program will include works by Haydn, Shostakovich, and Dvorak.

Marlene Rosenberg will play with the *Willie Pickens Quintet* at the Green Mill in Chicago on Friday, 4/28 from 9 p.m. - 1 and on Saturday, 4/29 from 8 p.m. to 12:00.

Willie Pickens will perform with Marian McPartland on April 13 at the Mother Lode Theater in Butte, Montana and on April 15 at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco, California.

Performances of *Robert Chappell's* composition *Wood-N-Steel* for Steel Band, African xylophone, and orchestra will be on June 30 & July 1 with the Birch Creek Steel Band and the Birch Creek Symphony in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin.

The *Orion Ensemble* with *Kathryn Pirtle* will conclude their concert series on Sunday, May 7 and Wednesday, May 10 with guest guitarist Julian Gray. For ticket information, please call 630-628-9591. They will also broadcast on WFMT, 98.7 FM on Monday, May 8 at 8 p.m. If you are in Chicago on May 2, stop in at the Chicago Cultural Center at 12:15 noon for a free concert.

Robert Fleisher's book *Twenty Israeli Composers: Voices of a Culture* (Wayne State Univ. Press, 1997) continues to receive critical praise: Ury Eppstein, in the *Jerusalem Post*, wrote: "informative introductions provide the background and perspective required for a meaningful understanding of the composers' works, personalities and positions within the wider framework of Israeli art music and society, and their diverse tendencies. . . . Particularly compelling is the frankness of some of the interviewees." Gila Flam, in the journal *Judaism*, called the book "a great contribution to the documentation and understanding of Israeli contemporary art music."

Ron Carter presented in-school workshops in Illinois, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Washington, and Massachusetts for the Finalists of the 2000 Jazz at Lincoln Center Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Festival and Competition during the month of February. Carter, Mid-America Coordinator for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Essentially Ellington competition, will also be a mentor and clinician at the Fifth Annual Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival on May 13, 14, and 15 at Avery Fischer Hall at Lincoln Center in New York. Judges this year will be James Moody, Bill Dobbins, Joe Lovano, Buster Cooper from the Duke Ellington Orchestra, and Wynton Marsalis, Artistic Director for Jazz at Lincoln Center. Carter will be guest adjudicator and

clinician at the University of Northern Colorado Jazz Festival in Greeley, Colorado April 26-29, 2000.

The Easter season annually finds the *Vermeer Quartet* engaged in performances of Haydn's Good Friday masterpiece, "The Seven Last Words of Christ." This is a work that has become a Vermeer calling card, largely because of the success of their Grammy-nominated CD. The Vermeer presents the work in Haydn's original format, with brief spoken introductions prior to each section of music given by religious leaders from the local communities where the performances take place. This year's presentations will take place on April 8 at Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), April 14 in Urbana, IL, April 16 at the University of St. Francis (Joliet, IL), and April 19 at the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel. The annual presentations at Rockefeller Chapel have become highly anticipated Chicago events. They are broadcast not only in this area over WFMT radio, but throughout the U.S. over the WFMT Fine Arts Network. An impressive lineup of speakers will join the Vermeer: Dr. Martin Marty (world-renowned theologian), Fr. Andrew Greeley (best-selling author and sociology professor at the University of Chicago), Stan Guthrie (Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College), Rev. Alison Boden (Dean of Rockefeller Chapel), Rev. James Meeks (Salem Baptist Church), Dr. Jean Bethke Elshtain (University of Chicago Divinity School), Rev. Gregory Dell (former pastor of Broadway United Methodist Church), and Barack Obama (Illinois State Senate). This April 19 event will be preceded by a 7 p.m. lecture by the Vermeer's Richard Young and Marc Johnson. The actual performance will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 (age 17 & under admitted free.) The number to call for ticket reservations is 773-702-7300.

Jeff Stitely will travel to Seattle & the West coast on tour with the Steve Griggs Quintet April 12-18. He will be on the CD release tour in Poland with Art Davis May 7-12. Stitely will record Kabbalah Blues with the Revolution Ensemble in early May. The Jeff Stitely Quartet will perform at Magoo's Underground in Chicago May 24, 9 p.m. -12. He will record "The Black Page" with Fulcrum Point in June and can be found at the North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland July 12-16.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

Octane - now called Grand Slam, has just completed a web page. If anyone wants to know why they changed, where they have been, to hire them or buy a CD, go to: www.grandslam4.com

The *NIU Jazz Ensemble* will be touring with special guest Melton Mustafa, trumpet great from the Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Woody Herman Jazz Orchestras. The band will present workshops and concerts at the Norris Cultural Center in St. Charles, Illinois, Thornridge High School in Dolton, Illinois, Oak Park-River Forest High School in Oak Park, Illinois, Stoughton High School in Stoughton, Wisconsin, and the United Jewish Church in Chesterfield, Missouri. The band will be recording its second live recording under director *Ronald Carter*. The recording will be dedicated to former director, *Ron*

Modell.

Laura Smith ('85) is principal solo cornet with the Illinois Brass Band. The IBB was featured on April 5th on WTTW's Art Beat Chicago. WTTW will be filming the band at the North American Brass Association Championships in Columbus, Ohio on April 15. IBB has won the top award three years in a row. Laura was a featured soloist, performing *Zelda*, with the band on April 2 in Norridge, Illinois.

Anthony Padilla ('88) let us know that he just won the 2000 Concert Artists Guild Competition in New York last month. In addition to the top prize, he was also awarded two special prizes: the Cascade Music Festival and WQXR Prizes. He will now be appearing on the Concert Artists Guild roster of soloists and will have a New York debut concert in 2001. Congrats!

Dan D'Andrea ('95) was recently featured in *Intermezzo*, the newspaper for the Chicago Federation of Musicians Local 10-208. The article highlighted Dan's career as founder and music director of the Salt Creek Sinfonietta, as well as a 35-member chamber choir, the Combined Church Choir of Itasca.

Chelsea Tipton ('89) was recently promoted from Assistant to Associate conductor with the Savannah Symphony Orchestra. He has also guest conducted the Louisville, Alabama, and Jacksonville Symphonies this season.

Down Beat magazine has announced that the NIU *Wind Ensemble* and the NIU *Philharmonic* are winners of this year's Student Music Awards. Congratulations to both ensembles and *Steve Squires*!

ODDS & ENDS

Calling all Concert Choir alumni! The NIU School of Music choral department would like to extend an invitation to alumni of the Concert Choir to join us in a performance at Chicago's Symphony Center. The Chicago Sinfonietta has asked NIU's choral program to provide a chorus to join them in a performance of Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* on May 1, 2000. We would like to assemble an alumni choir to combine with the exceptional talent already here on campus. If you are interested, please contact Eric Johnson, director of choral activities at 815-753-7984 or e-mail him at ejohnsn@niu.edu.

Healing Harps and the School of Music will present the Second International Healing Harps Symposium May 19-21, 2000. Hosts will be Ron Price and Elizabeth Cifani, both School of Music faculty. Keynote speaker will be Alice Brandfonbrener, M.D., Dean of American Music Medicine Specialists, and on the faculty at Northwestern University School of Medicine. There will be clinics, workshops, exhibits, and concerts. This will be a unique opportunity to meet and share with physicians, neuroscientists, psychologists, anesthetists, hospice directors, and musicians and also to celebrate the accomplishments of Healing Harps, Inc. If you would like more information, please call Ron or Carol Price

at 815-758-2228.

Let us know if you have info you would like to share with other music educators. We can add it to our next newsletter (1st of each month). Just send your info to lslater@niu.edu!

If you have questions about any of the information in this newsletter, or would like more details, please contact Lynn Slater at 815-753-1546 or lslater@niu.edu.