

# Allegro

Music @ St. Cloud State

Fall, 2008 Newsletter

## Celebration of Light

The Department of Music will present CELEBRATION OF LIGHT: Music of the Season on Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 pm in Ritsche Auditorium. Proceeds will benefit music scholarships at SCSU. The program will include traditional holiday selections from the Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Flute Choir, Concert Choir, Women's Choir, Men's Choir, Chamber Singers, Cantabile Girls Choir and the SCSU Dance Ensemble along with music and poetry from other cultural traditions that celebrate the coming of light during the darkest time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The SCSU Alumni Foundation will host a special reception for the public following the concert in the Atwood Center Ballroom. \$10 general public, \$5 students, \$3 children 12 and under.

## Ensembles Perform Abroad

The setting, a former Nazi concentration camp in France. In the front row, friends and family of survivors of the Holocaust and French and German dignitaries. The performers, 200 singers and musicians from SCSU, CSB and SJU. When it was finished, there was silence. Then tears. The Concert Choir, Orchestra, Cantabile Girls Choir and music faculty made up the majority of the performers and organizers involved in the European premier of the Holocaust oratorio, "To Be Certain of the Dawn." The group performed several concerts in Germany, Switzerland and France, but it was the performance at Natzweiler-Struthof that left the indelible mark on their hearts. Throughout the tour, the St. Cloud Times chronicled the events with unprecedented coverage. Visit [www.stcloudtimes.com/oratorio](http://www.stcloudtimes.com/oratorio) for photos and videos.



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## A Letter from the Chair

I have witnessed firsthand that great learning and outstanding accomplishment can happen in "small" places, and I have committed myself to this belief since I arrived at SCSU in 1990. Under the leadership of President Earl Potter III, our vision is to become the flagship music department of the MnSCU universities.

You can help us reign in a new era for Music@SCSU by getting in touch with our alumni and music offices and telling us of your own achievements and accomplishments; by informing your students and your colleagues of our excellent educational and performance opportunities; and by giving back to our alumni fundraisers. I am very excited about the future of Music@SCSU and I hope to see all of you at our CELEBRATION OF LIGHT: Music of the Season gala performance on Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 pm in Ritsche Auditorium on campus.

Sincerely, Dr. Terry Vermillion

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ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY



A MEMBER OF THE MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SYSTEM

## Scholarship Auditions

Saturday, February 7th, 2009

11 a.m. to 5p.m.

*ALTERNATE DATE*

Saturday, February 21st, 2009.

Contact Dr. Daniel O'Bryant, [dkobryant@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:dkobryant@stcloudstate.edu)  
(320) 308-2280 or visit [www.stcloudstate.edu/music](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/music) for details.

# Upcoming CONCERTS & EVENTS

The **New Media “First Monday” Series** was awarded a generous \$2500 grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board that will fund special guests on campus to present free informal, one-hour demonstrations of their new works. Artists include alumnus Brett Warchow who will demonstrate the Nintendo Wii as an audio controller, Douglas Geers will present new works, Zeitgeist will work with student composers, the Bay Players will perform and discuss their dual roles as composers and performers, and Brock Dubbels will discuss the use of video games as educational tools.

**When:** The first Monday of each month @ 5pm in the Gant Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

**November 3rd:** Brett Warchow

**December 2nd:** Douglas Geers

Contact Dr. Kristian Twombly at [kmtwombly@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:kmtwombly@stcloudstate.edu) for information.

**Cantabile Girls’ Choir** will be seeking a new **Director**, effective June 1, 2009.

The Director of Cantabile is the chief artistic director of the organization and has responsibility for the musical and pedagogical integrity of the choir and for creating a vision to fulfill the mission. Candidates should call the Director of the Preparatory Program, Mary Jo Bot at 320-308-3836 for information.

**St. Cloud Symphony YOUTH Orchestra** continues to grow under the leadership of Dr. Daniel O’Bryant. The orchestra recently added an advanced level which is a combination of college and high school students, meeting in a college-community outreach program. The advanced group will perform Britten’s Simple Symphony with the St. Cloud State Orchestra on Saturday November 22, at 7:30 p.m. and Tchaikovsky’s Sleeping Beauty with the St. Cloud Symphony on May 2, at 7:30 p.m. both in Ritsche Auditorium.

The Department of Music will present **“A Night at the Opera”** Saturday, February 14, at 8:00pm in Ritsche Auditorium. The concert will feature the Orchestra, Concert Choir and student soloists from the Opera Theatre performing a variety of opera favorites. Cap your Valentine Day by joining us for a rousing evening of wonderful music. Contact Dr. Hugh Givens at [hgivens@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:hgivens@stcloudstate.edu) for information.



Saturday, October 4th marked the first annual **Husky Band Day** at St. Cloud State as the Grand Rapids High School Marching Band took the field alongside the Husky Sports Band. Special thanks to both directors of the Grand Rapids High School Marching Band, who are also St. Cloud State Alumni, Mr. Dale Gunderson and Ms. Olivia Latimer. For information visit [www.HuskyBandDay.com](http://www.HuskyBandDay.com)

The “King of Rock & Roll” also visited campus for a special performance of Viva Las Vegas with the **Husky Sports Band** for Homecoming on Saturday, October 18th. Special thanks to Elvis (*also known as Ashley Asmus*). For information visit [www.HuskySportsBand.com](http://www.HuskySportsBand.com)



## High NOTES

### Music Department Shines at President’s Inauguration

The SCSU Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble were featured on Sept. 19 at the inauguration of Earl H. Potter III as the 22nd President of SCSU. One of the many highlights included the world premiere of “Verse Left to Write” composed by SCSU alum Timothy Tharaldson with text by current SCSU senior and Concert Choir president, Ethan Wittrock.

Santa Barbara Music Publishing will publish the work in 2009 under Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe’s Choral Series.

The Concert Choir released their **new Compact Disc** entitled *Sing Joyfully*. The disc includes a wide variety of choral works including the music of William Byrd, Thomas Tallis, Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre and St. Cloud native, Matthew Culloton. It makes a perfect gift for the holidays! Contact Dr. Lee Nelson at [ldnelson@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:ldnelson@stcloudstate.edu) for your copy.

Organizers of the annual **Her Story~Her Song** performances were presented with the **Distinguished Community Service Award** from the St. Cloud Children’s Home for a service project last Spring. Participants collected scrap-booking supplies for the young women of Cottage One at the Children’s Home and arranged for photographs to be taken. Women’s Choir members then spent a day with the teen-aged residents putting together scrapbooks, giving each of the young women a precious memento of their time at the Children’s Home. This year’s **Her Story~Her Song** concert is April 21st at 7pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



Dozens of instrumental and vocal teachers visited campus for the first **Teacher Appreciation Day** on Thursday, October 16th. University faculty throughout the day featured free workshops, seminars and open rehearsals. Visiting teachers also had the opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units by attending.

The fall **Choral Connections Concert** featured six St. Cloud area high school choirs and the SCSU Concert Choir on October 27. The choirs of Apollo, Cathedral, Sauk Rapids-Rice, St. Cloud Tech high schools with St. John’s Preparatory School and the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota shared the stage at Ritsche Auditorium for an evening of choral music.

On Veterans Day, November 11, the Wind Ensemble joined with outstanding high school band musicians from Apollo, Cathedral, Tech, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids Rice high schools to form the **Greater St. Cloud Honor Band**. This Band performed patriotic music honoring Veterans in an American Spirit Tribute at Ritsche Auditorium. On October 30 and 31 the Wind Ensemble also made a concert tour to Buffalo and Pierz High Schools where faculty and students offered sectionals and master classes. The Wind Ensemble performed for high school students from Buffalo, Maple Grove, Maple Lake, Monticello, and Pierz-Healey.

The Department of Music is **Going GREEN** and is seeking donations of “*gently used*” instruments to help augment our inventory. If you would like to “recycle” (donate) an instrument, or know someone who would like to see give their instrument a second life, please contact (320) 308-3223 or [music@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:music@stcloudstate.edu)

The Department of Music YouTube website continues to grow with dozens of videos featuring student and faculty performances, seminars, master classes, and workshops.

Watch your favorite musicians online at [www.youtube.com/SCSUmusic](http://www.youtube.com/SCSUmusic)

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## Student SPOTLIGHT

**Alicia Eisenstadt**, BM Trumpet was one of two brass players advanced to the finals of the collegiate division of the Schubert Club

Woodwind and Brass Scholarship Competition in St. Paul last April.

**Amee Gallagher**, MM Piano Pedagogy received a scholarship to attend the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) program in Graz, Austria this past summer. She studied and performed as a collaborative pianist with a concentration in German Lieder.

**Mark Potvin**, MM Choral Conducting was awarded the 2008 MN ACDA Young Conductor of the Year Award. Potvin is the director of choirs at Princeton High School in Princeton, MN and is currently a full time graduate student where he works with the SCSU Concert Choir and Chamber Singers.



## Faculty NEWS

**Dr. Stephen Fuller** gave his second EAST MEETS WEST piano recital in Ritsche Auditorium on Sunday, October 5. Among other works Fuller performed the U.S. Premiere of Hajime Okamura's Piano Sonata No. 1 (1970) and a Chinese piano prelude entitled Flowing Waters by Chu Chin Ye. Dr. Fuller will be also perform this recital in San Francisco and Hawaii in January of 2009.

**Dr. Kim Gast** and the Faculty Jazz Quintet received a grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board for their '08-'09 jazz series. The grant supports live jazz in the St. Cloud communities featuring the group in joint concerts with middle school, high school and college level jazz groups. For a list of upcoming performances contact [kgast@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:kgast@stcloudstate.edu)

**Dr. Hugh Givens** spent his spring sabbatical teaching college music students in Manila, Philippine. Philippine students received voice lessons, participated in seminars on artistry in music, vocal pedagogy and choral vocal techniques. Students involved in voice lessons during those weeks performed a recital as the culmination of their studies.

**Dr. Richard Hansen** was selected to present at the Oxford University Round Table of Scholars in Oxford, England for a weeklong colloquium on the arts and technology. Hansen was most recently honored with the Distinguished Alumnus in Music Award at University of Iowa at Sioux Falls and the Bruce and Dee Pearson Traditions of Excellence Professional Development Award. Bruce and Dee Pearson presented the award at the Wind Ensemble's Spirit of America concert on November 11.

**Dr. Marion Judish** was awarded three grants from the Lake Region Arts Council to mentor gifted string students in Minnesota. This is the second consecutive year Judish received this award. The students chosen for her mentorship are Anthony Reed (2007), David Wilson (2008) and Samantha Steidl (2008).

**Dr. Melissa Krause** composed a work for the Westwind Concert Band in Hopkins, MN that was premiered on June 1st at the Hopkins Center for the Arts and was received enthusiastically by audience members and ensemble participants. The piece will also be performed by the Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Richard Hansen on April 25, 2009 in Ritsche Auditorium.

**Dr. Scott Miller's** latest composition Nebe Na Zemi (Heaven on Earth) premieres November 5, 2008 at the Corpus Christi Chapel, University Palacky, Olomouc, CZ. "Nebe Na Zemi" is a site-specific performance piece created in collaboration with Olomouc video-artist Vladimír Havlík. The 30-minute work is for soprano, four-channel interactive electronics and three video projections.

**Dr. Daniel O'Bryant** has been appointed as one of four conductors for the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra 2008-2009 concert season. In addition to serving as YOUTH Orchestra Director and Principal Bassist, he will oversee all educational outreach, conduct the "Classics for Kids" concerts, and appear as guest conductor for the season finale on May 2, 2009.

**Dr. Marcelyn Smale** and **Dr. Melissa Krause** presented "Engaging Today's Student in Musicianship: A Collaborative Approach" at the College Music Society's National Convention in Atlanta on September 27, 2008. The session explored the philosophies and "outside the box" techniques they have developed over an eleven-year collaboration teaching in the musicianship curriculum at St. Cloud State University. They have been invited to present more of their pedagogical methods in a session entitled "Really Reading Rhythm" at the MMEA Midwinter In-Service Clinic in February 2009.

## Alumni ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

**Karen Dahl**, BM Violin (2008), Karl Konz, BM Percussion (2008), and Jordan Wirth BM Percussion (2007) have all been accepted into the graduate program at Cleveland State University where Wirth and Konz will be studying with Cleveland Orchestra principal percussionist Tom Freer. Wirth also won recently the principal percussion position with the Youngstown Symphony in Youngstown, Ohio.

**Bruce T. Pearson**, BS Music Education (1964) was bestowed an honorary doctorate from SCSU on May 10, 2008. The internationally known author, composer, clinician and conductor is best known as the author of the "Standard of Excellence Comprehensive Band Method" music series, first published in 1993. Dr. Pearson and Dee Pearson have also established the Tradition of Excellence Music Faculty Professional Development Award. This generous award will be given each year to the most outstanding applicant from within the Department of Music based upon their contributions to the field of Music Education.

**Joseph Ripka**, BM Piano (2004) won first place in the Dublin, Ireland International Organ Competition in June, competing against more than 30 applicants from around the world. Ripka's prize includes a recital tour of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and he has been invited to perform with the New World Symphony in Miami. Currently Ripka is completing the Artist Diploma program in organ performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio.

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