

ENCORE

An aerial photograph of a large, semi-circular building under construction. The building features a prominent semi-circular auditorium with tiered seating areas. The interior of the auditorium is filled with a complex network of wooden scaffolding and steel beams, indicating ongoing construction. The building is surrounded by a flat, light-colored ground, possibly a parking lot or construction site. In the background, there are other buildings and a yellow construction crane. The overall scene depicts a major renovation or new construction project for a music school.

FALL 2023

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC



YOUR **PASSION.** OUR **PURPOSE.**



AUDITION DAYS

January 13
February 3
February 19
April 6



**Western Illinois
University**
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DISCOVERY DAYS

EXPLORE LIFE AS A MUSIC MAJOR

October 27
April 19



From the Director



Greetings from the School of Music at Western Illinois University. The fall semester has been filled with excitement as we welcomed five new teachers and artists to our faculty along with a large class of new students, and we have witnessed astounding progress on the Center for the Performing Arts. For the latest updates regarding the CPA and a live video feed of the construction progress, please visit wiu.edu/cpa. WIU is in the midst of a \$100-million campaign, *For the W*, that promises to enhance educational opportunities for our students. The campaign focuses on five priorities: scholarships;

student and academic support; technology advancements; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and faculty support. Many generous donors have supported initiatives specifically directed to the School of Music this year, including recognizing the legendary Dale Hopper by enhancing and renaming our band practice field, purchasing instruments to reach our goal of becoming an All-Steinway School, student scholarships, and more. On behalf of the School of Music, I invite you to join us in this campaign with a gift that will support our talented students and build upon our strong foundation by visiting wiu.edu/givetomusic.

Our community has been bursting with energy this year with numerous performances and special events on campus, and our faculty and students are sharing their knowledge and talent on regional, national, and international levels. Of special note this year, the University Singers under the direction of Dr. Brian Winnie will perform at the Midwestern American Choral Directors Association Conference in February 2024. The University Singers are one of only a few collegiate choirs to be invited following a competitive application process including hundreds of submissions from ensembles across 10 states. Congratulations, University Singers!

We are excited to share our many achievements with you and invite you to connect with us through social media for the latest news. Best wishes for a happy and healthy spring season.

A stylized blue ink signature of Dr. Jeffrey Brown.

DR. JEFFREY BROWN

Director, WIU School of Music



ALUMNI NEWS 9

FACULTY NEWS 9

ON THE COVER: The Center for Performing Arts continues its construction progress.

PHOTOGRAPH BY WIU PHOTOGRAPHY AND DESIGN PRODUCTION



UNIVERSITY SINGERS INVITED TO PERFORM

The ensemble will travel to Omaha, Nebraska to sing in a regional choir conference

Dr. Brian Winnie, Director of Choral Activities, shares details of their upcoming conference appearance in February 2024.

Congratulations on your conference invitation! What are the details of this conference?

The Midwestern American Choral Directors Association conference is one of six biennial region conferences in the US and comprises ten states.

The conference will be hosted in Omaha, Nebraska February 7-10, 2024 and is attended by over 600 choral professionals from all over the region and US.

What is the application and selection process for the conference?

Choirs throughout the Midwest, ranging from Elementary to professional level ensembles,

submitted recordings from the previous four years. These recordings were blind, peer-reviewed by a committee of experts, and fifteen choirs were selected to perform at the conference.

Describe the University Singers: the ensemble membership, the repertoire you will sing?

The Western Illinois University Singers was the ensemble selected for this honor. They are one of three university mixed ensembles from the region and the only performance choir selected to represent the state of Illinois. The University Singers consists of 36 singers with special guest Dr. Nicholas Miguel, Assistant Professor of Music in Voice, and collaborative pianist, Dr. Po-Chuan Chiang.

We will be performing a set of six pieces centered around the theme “The Oceans Between Us,” a story of love and loss and the journey toward healing. The program features a diverse array of composers and vocal styles from classical to belt.

Why did you pursue this opportunity? What does it bring to our students and to Western in general?

These conferences are a high-level experience for any performer because of the

unique opportunity to perform for an audience full of choral professionals and educators. The only higher achievement in the US is to be selected to perform for a national conference. It’s also a tremendous opportunity for our students to attend interest session and other choral performances at the conference for free.

Because so few choirs are selected for these conferences, it is a tremendous achievement and honor for our students past and present. We could not have achieved this without the tremendous support of the administration and collaborative School of Music colleagues. This is also a wonderful honor for WIU being the only Illinois institution at the conference.

What are your future plans for the ensemble?

We will continue to submit applications to future national conferences both within ACDA and other conferences. We

also hope to tour in a future year outside of the Midwest. ■

“Because so few choirs are selected for these conferences, it is a tremendous achievement and honor for our students past and present. We could not have achieved this without the tremendous support of the administration and collaborative School of Music colleagues.”

DR. BRIAN WINNIE

DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES





COMMUNITY IS THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

The WIU Community Music School brings summer music camp opportunities to regional students

By Anneliese Land

In Summer 2023, the WIU School of Music transitioned the previously known Summer Music Institute to be housed underneath the ever-growing WIU Community Music School. With this transition came a change to a commuter camp format, rather than the traditional residential format offered in previous summers.

WIU Community Music School Director and Assistant Professor of Horn, Dr. Jena Gardner, provides greater insight into the successful transition and experience of both campers and CMS faculty this summer.

Describe the summer camps at WIU in 2023, especially after migrating from a residential to commuter camp structure. What were the goals and priorities of camps? What was enrollment like?

When the Community Music School took over what was previously the Summer Music Institute some changes were needed in order to align with the priorities of the program most significantly, dedicating resources to serving the students of Macomb and the surrounding communities. This was a large driver for shifting to a commuter camp structure. Highlights of the 2023 CMS Summer Session include:

- 133 unique student registrations
- 10 WIU music students and 6 WIU music faculty members hired
- Growth in nearly every camp offering from 2022 to 2023
- A 50% increase in enrollment in Band Camp from 2022 to 2023
- An over 40% increase in enrollment in Piano Camp from 2022 to 2023, with a waiting list

What was the general camp experience like for students?

In addition to top-notch musical instruction in group and individual settings, CMS Summer Music Camps incorporated traditional camp recreation activities and a final showcase at the end of each session. High school instrumentalists and vocalists who attended camps in weeks 2 and 3 all received a complimentary private lesson as part of their camp experience. We believe that access to individualized instruction is critical for all students, and this remains a hallmark in our approach in the summer, as well as our fall and spring offerings.

Which audiences were reached through summer camps?

We reached our local communities in Macomb, Rushville, and Bushnell, as well as students traveling from Quincy, Galesburg, and the Quad Cities.

What kind of camps were offered?

We offered Rocky's Music Camp (a general music camp for elementary students), Vocal Camp, Steel Band Camp, Strings Camp, Piano Camp, Jazz Camp and Band Camp. In addition to programs for K-12 students, we launched a professional development program for music educators to work intensively with WIU's applied percussion faculty during the week of Band Camp. In the summer of 2024, music educators are invited to attend the one-week Brass Intensive with WIU's brass faculty.

How are CMS faculty and staff involved with the camps?

The Community Music School employs 15-20 private lesson and group class instructors during the fall and spring sessions. Many of these same individuals teach private lessons and musicianship classes during the summer session.

What were impressions of camps from campers and parents?

“This has been a great opportunity for my child to work with artists of all skill levels. I am so impressed with the participation by the WIU faculty and students.”

“All the staff have created a nurturing, inspirational environment for quality instruction. The kids can feel the instructors genuine enthusiasm for them to succeed and their passion for music. I am so grateful to WIU for tirelessly putting together their summer camps. The camp is well structured, with the perfect balance of instruction and fun team bonding activities! Exceeds expectations and the best camp my daughter has attended!”

What are the future plans for camps?

This summer we will continue hosting day camps for students from June 10-28. In addition to the programs we offered last year we are adding a general music camp "Rocky's Pups" for children 6-8 years old. Interested parties can find more information at wiu.edu/communitymusic.



THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

The progress on construction of WIU's newest building, a \$110 million state-supported project

Construction on the Center for Performing Arts (CPA) continues to progress, as plans continue to take form for the venue. WIU is now hiring for the position of Director of the Center for Performing Arts. This role will provide leadership and oversight for the CPA, including season planning, marketing and audience

development, recruiting and development, oversee budgeting, and the day-to-day operations of the CPA.. This role also will serve as the academic head of the Arts Leadership (MFA) program, establishing the program as one of the preeminent programs in arts leadership working with the CPA as a backdrop for training.

For a live look at the CPA construction, to learn more about the initiative, and to donate to this exciting project, please visit wiu.edu/cpa.



**HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR

The WIU School of Music faculty and students bring Christmas cheer to Macomb and the Quad Cities



CMS STRING ENSEMBLE



MPE/ACDA CAROLERS



WOODWIND STUDENTS & FACULTY



**INAUGURAL HOLIDAY BRASS PERFORMANCE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



**CMS STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
HOLIDAY BRASS**

ALUMNI & FACULTY NEWS



Nicole Gillotti, Assistant Professor of Trumpet, released a solo album entitled "Many Faces" in collaboration with pianist, Tatiana Gorbunova. This features commissions for trumpet and piano by composers Kim Osberg, Scott Wyatt, Ralph Lewis, and Amy Dunker.



Director of Bands **Dr. Mike Fansler** recently conducted the North-Central Iowa Bandmasters Festival in Mason City and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 5 South Band in Ephrata.

Rebecca Bressanelli (BM, '13, Violin

Performance) will be joining the DePaul University School of Music College Office team as Coordinator of Academic Services! Rebecca will be coordinating Career, Registrar and Scheduling services within the School of Music. She also will be overseeing the School of Music Career Services program and providing Career Advising for School of Music students. Rebecca's husband, **Kevin Bressanelli** (BM, '11, Trombone Performance) served 6 years in the active duty Army Bands as a trombonist. He will be pursuing graduate studies and other opportunities outside the military.



Scott M. Jones, (BM, '94, Music Education) was recently named the IADA District 6 Athletic/Activities Director of the Year.



Congratulations are due to **Lily Fisher** on completion of her music therapy internship with Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care under the supervision of WIU Music Therapy Alumni Melissa (Nee) Rousek (2013) and Allison (Marcum) Gunnink (2010).



WIU Alumni **Art Martinez** and **Lisa Hallen** currently teach at Monmouth-Roseville High School. On December 6, 2023 the MRHS band program shared a concert with the WIU Concert Band. The next night, alumnus Derrick Murphy

brought his Burlington, Iowa Concert Band to COFAC to share a concert with the WIU Wind Ensemble.



Dr. Jett Walker, Assistant Professor of Trombone, has been selected to perform at the 2024 International Trombone Festival hosted at Texas Christian University. He will perform Jack Wild's recent composition, "Sonata for Trombone and Brass Quartet."



Kenny Lee, Director of Orchestras and Cello Professor, was invited to conduct the renowned Czech Chamber Philharmonic in Pardubice, Czech Republic.

ALUMNI & FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Elisabeth Marshall, Assistant Professor of Voice, performed with the Handel & Haydn Society Chorus and the New York Philharmonic in Handel's Messiah, conducted by Italian early music specialist Fabio Biondi, at David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center in New York City, Dec. 12-16.



Congratulations to **Paul Casiano**, (MM, '21, Piano Performance, who completed his final recital for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance at the University of Iowa. Paul is currently working to record an album of solo piano

music by Filipino composers and looks forward to graduating in 2024.



Dr. Gina Yi, Assistant Professor of Music Education, presented "Authentic Assessment in the General Music Classroom" in an ILMEA District 4 professional development session for elementary music teachers on November 4 which was held at Western Illinois University.



Graduates and current students in the Musicology program at WIU attended the American Musicological Society annual meeting in

Denver, Nov. 9-13. Graduates: Jeremy Zima, Isadora Miranda, Robbie Segars, Matt Sulla; Current student: Madalyn Pridemore; Faculty: Anita Hardeman and Brian Locke



Po-Chuan Chiang, Collaborative Pianist, /Qian Yin released a new album "Brahms & Franck: Sonatas" and recieved the gold medal for classical in Global Music Award (March 2023).



Charlie Chadwell, Assistant Professor of Saxophone, and **Suyeon Ko**, Assistant Professor of Flute, will perform **Hong-Da**

Chin's, Assistant Professor of Composition, "Two Broken Records" for Flute and Saxophone at the NASA Conference in March in Oklahoma.



Guest artists Ashlee Mack (piano) and Anthony Donofrio (percussion) visited **WIU Composition** Seminar before their evening performance of Donofrio's brand-new duo "Altars."



Masters in Jazz Performance alumni **Dani Ayala** has released a new book, "Harmonic Concepts and Improvisation Techniques."



**Western Illinois
University**
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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