



Take Note!

Noteworthy Headlines from the
College of the Ozarks Music Department

APRIL 2014 • VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 5

The Music of the NAIA

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



The C of O pep band, local high school bands, and individual musicians teamed up to bring energy to the NAIA Division II Men's Basketball Tournament. The music's upbeat rhythms encouraged players, and inspired fans to cheer throughout the games which were hosted March 12th-18th.

The music also helped to create an enjoyable environment, said C of O head basketball coach Steve Shepherd. "We've got a really polished band that plays good music that provides for a good atmosphere," he said.

The C of O pep band played for both the Bobcats' and visiting teams' games starting at five o'clock, and played for approximately four and half hours. Popular, fast-paced music is always on the song list for the C of O pep band. "If the audience knows the tune, that's a good thing," director Dr. Powers said. "They start to sing along."

The pep band has played for all of the Bobcats' home games this season except for the games over Christmas break. The role of the pep band in basketball games is the same for the tournament: "That is to show up and play really loud and have a good time, and just get the audience in the game," Dr. Powers said. "The students have done a great job in helping to invigorate the audience and just to help to contribute to a more enthusiastic environment."

In addition, C of O invited pep bands from local high schools to contribute their musical talents.



This year, bands from high schools in Galena, Missouri and Strafford, Missouri played at the tournament. Mr. Philip Thomas, the band director at Galena High School, said he and his students look forward to playing at this event every year. “We just have fun playing for the college games because we don’t get to see this level of intensity in high school basketball,” Mr. Thomas said. “It’s just exciting to watch and it’s fun to be a part of what’s going on with the tournament.”



Dr. Bruce Gerlach, professor of music, coordinated the high school bands’ performances. Bands were not available to play at all games, so when bands could play, it was much appreciated. “We are very grateful for them bringing live music here, so we provide them drinks for their band, and an NAIA t-shirt,” Dr. Gerlach said.

Other musical performances at the NAIA tournament traditionally include the opening ceremony and the singing of the National Anthem at every seven o’clock game.

At this year’s opening ceremony, C of O professor Bob Smither performed the National Anthem on the trumpet. This was Smither’s third year playing the trumpet for the opening ceremony. He said it is always an honor for him to be asked to perform for this event.

Senior Music Major Hannah Mahan felt the impact the music had on the audience when she performed the National Anthem at Friday evening’s game. As she was singing, several people started singing along with her. “I was joining with more people and leading it, and not just kind of ‘on display’ in honoring our country.” She felt honored to sing for the tournament, since it is such a public event, she said.

For the final game, Dr. Gerlach directed the C of O chorale, a group of twenty-two auditioned singers. They performed an a cappella arrangement of the National Anthem, by Dr. Gerlach.

Many people were very moved by the performance. “They felt it very strongly, including the referees,” Dr. Gerlach said. “The referees made a point of thanking the choir and me, and telling us what a great job we did.”

Every year, the tournament brings basketball players and fans to C of O from all over the country. The musicians of the NAIA work hard to encourage players and fans. “We’re here to serve the school,” Dr. Powers said. “We’re here to serve the athletic department and do what we can to uplift them.”



Spring Break in Chicago

Over spring break, three college students traveled to the “Windy City” to attend the annual Music Teachers’ National Association Conference.

Piano professor Dr. Dwayne Huff and his family accompanied Anna Zachary, president of the C of O MTNA club, and club members Hannah Mahan and Amber McDowell on the trip. The group flew to Chicago the Friday morning before spring break and spent five days attending seminars, listening to beautiful music, and enjoying the city.

At the conference, professionals discussed several topics, including “Mindfulness and Mental Wellness,” “Chopin Études: Tips and Tricks for Smaller Hands,” “Improvisation for Church Musicians,” and “Getting Organized: Essential Studio Policies and Procedures.”

The students really enjoyed learning from the presentations. “Getting to listen to seasoned, veteran teachers share some of their insight was helpful, and I now have some new ideas for my own private studio,” Mahan said.

Exhibitors presented their teaching materials in showcases where faculty from music publisher companies played samples of their piano literature. In the Hal Leonard Showcase, composer and arranger Philip Keveren gave a sneak peek of pieces from his new repertoire. At all showcases, composers provided complimentary music to those in attendance.

The conference also offered a grand prize for an MTNA member who visited the majority of the vendors’ booths. Out of all of the members in attendance, Hannah Mahan won! The prize included \$50 or more worth of materials from each vendor. “It didn’t really sink in until I sat down and opened the box. So many books, teaching methods, random gadgets, gift cards,” Mahan said. “I am thrilled because I have so much literature for my students now!”

The students enjoyed beautiful performances in the Winners’ Concert, which featured vocalists, pianists, and woodwind and brass players.

On Tuesday, the conference hosted an advanced piano master class taught by pianist Spencer Myer. Myer is a graduate of the Juilliard School and has performed in recitals, orchestras and festivals around the world. Amber McDowell said she enjoyed this master class particularly. A camera set up above the pianist’s hands made it easier to visualize the ideas that Myer was guiding each pianist to put into action. “The difference between the first and the last time the pianist played a section was remarkable,” McDowell said. “It sounded really good before, but after Myer guided the pianist, you could hear a change in the musicality of the piece.”

Besides attending the conference, the C of O group also had a chance to experience some of Chicago’s highlights. They strolled in Millennium Park and saw Cloud Gate (also known as “The Bean”), shopped along “the Magnificent Mile”, and experienced the culture of Chinatown.

The MTNA conference was an uplifting venture for all involved. This was Anna Zachary’s third time attending the annual gathering of teachers. “Each year I have found myself surrounded by so many people who are passionate about their work as musicians,” she said. “Going to the conference reminds me that I am a small part of a huge movement of musical impact. Hearing the fresh insight of young talent and the wise instruction from experienced professionals is inspiring.”



College of the Ozarks Music Faculty Highlight

Laura Miao



College of the Ozarks is excited to welcome new accompanist, Laura Miao, to the music department family this semester. She was born and raised in Beijing, China. Miao started learning piano when she was four years old. She confessed, “I didn't like piano at all for many years! When other kids were watching TV or playing outside, I had to practice. I never quit because my parents persisted. However...in the last year of middle school, I stopped going to my piano lesson for a year. After entering high school, I started practicing again, this time choosing the work that I *wanted* to learn instead of being assigned by the teacher. I loved Chopin's music and for the first time I *enjoyed* it.”

Miao always dreamed of coming to America and being married. She fulfilled that dream, and now she and her husband have two children. One person she has met since coming to America is Dr. Ness, who is an adjunct singing professor at

College of the Ozarks. When Dr. Ness heard that the college was in need of a new accompanist, she contacted Miao. Miao was excited to apply and be accepted to the position.

When asked how her first semester is going, Miao responded, “I am totally enjoying the experience. I come to the college twice a day anyway for my kids going to daycare, but working with Dr. Ness, Hannah, and Sabrina has been fun and pleasant. I go to the girls' lessons every Wednesday and I enjoy eating at the cafeteria and walking on campus with my backpack, feeling like a student all over again. I have also learned more about the college, its students and its culture, which make me really appreciate what CofO is all about.”

Miao wanted to encourage college students by saying, “No matter what you do in life, when you work for an employer or have your own business, aim for excellence. I believe anything that is worth doing is worth 100% of my effort. When you put in your heart, time, and effort to do something you enjoy, the money will follow. Your employer WILL see your effort and capability--they might not say anything and you won't get promoted overnight, but when an opportunity arises, it will be YOU that people will remember. Keep up the good attitude, take the initiative to do extra, and work like you're not here for the money.”

The View from the Pit: C of O Musicians Offer their Talents to the College Musical

College of the Ozarks musicians were unseen, yet were certainly heard by all, in the orchestra pit for the spring musical, *Anything Goes*. College of the Ozarks offers a unique opportunity for musicians to receive one class credit for preparing and performing in the musical. Students rehearsed once every week for one and half hours, for six weeks, as well as two weekend rehearsals. While different musicals require different instruments, *Anything Goes* included brass, woodwinds, violin, and percussion instruments.

Playing in the pit is yet another often unseen facet of the student-led-work nature of “Hard Work U.” The pit orchestra is sometimes confused for a recording by audience members visiting the college, for the orchestra is actually under the stage. With the direction of conductor Mr. Gregg Busch, who must watch not only the score and musicians, but also the action on stage,

the pit orchestra produces a remarkably accurate and polished performance for college productions.

When asked about his experience in the pit, percussionist Tyler Smith reflected on not only this year’s musical but his past performances in the pit as well, saying, “At times it can seem stressful, but with all the dedication and hard work, not only from the orchestra but from Mr. Busch as the conductor, it always turns out to be magnificent in the end.”



March 20th, 2014

College of the Ozarks Concert Band

performed the music of

Stamp, Cumow, Bach, Holst, Vaughan Williams, and Grainger



Upcoming Events

April 9	4:00 pm	Student Recital	Newman Recital Hall
April 12	2:00 pm	Senior Recital: Noah Fry	Newman Recital Hall
April 12	7:30 pm	Springfield Symphony	Hammons Hall
April 13	2:00 pm	Senior Recital: Hannah Mahan	Newman Recital Hall
April 17	7:00 pm	Handbell Concert	Royal Oak Forum
April 22	7:00 pm	Chorale Concert	Williams Memorial Chapel
April 25	7:30 pm	Jazz Band Concert	Royal Oak Forum
April 26	3:00 pm	Senior Recital: Sabrina Elliott	Newman Recital Hall
April 29, 30	7:30 pm	Cirque de Varieté	Jones Auditorium
Apr. 30	4:00 pm	Student Recital	Newman Recital Hall
May 1	7:30 pm	Concert Band Concert	Royal Oak Forum
May 4	7:00 pm	Senior Project: Elizabeth Mall	Newman Recital Hall

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

The Music Department Newsletter *Take Note* is now being distributed only electronically.

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, send an email to music@cofo.edu



Contact Us!

Feel free to call or e-mail us with your questions or comments regarding our department or the college.

music@cofo.edu