



Take Note!

Noteworthy Headlines from the
College of the Ozarks Music Department

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Concert Band Tours Ireland

Members of the concert band ended their spring semester with preparation—and excitement—for the tour of Ireland. Under the direction of Dr. Bruce Gerlach, the band rehearsed throughout finals in May. Members took a short break from all of the preparation; some went home to see family, and some stayed on campus to work. Then it was back to rehearsing and performing at three venues in the Branson area before the departure. At four o'clock in the morning on the 21st of May, the band headed out on their journey across the Atlantic.

Upon arrival, the students were eager to explore and see the beautiful country and culture. The group had one coach driver for the trip, Mr. David Breen. He welcomed the group at the airport, stayed with them through their whole stay, and shared about the history and beautiful landscapes of the country. In Northern Ireland, a professional tour guide accompanied the group in Belfast, after which they visited the Titanic Center and the Irish Linen Center in Lisburn. In the Republic of Ireland, the group traveled to the monastic sites Glendalough and Monasterboice, and toured Trinity College, the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, the Cobh Heritage Center, Waterford Crystal, Bunratty Castle, and the Cliffs of Moher. A favorite sight among the students was the coastal town of Howth, where some of



The concert band had the opportunity to visit many exciting places, including Monasterboice in Ireland.

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Concert Band Tours Ireland *cont...*

the students hiked down a steep cliff to the Irish Sea. Amber McDowell said “Getting outside and exploring the countryside was so refreshing, and the view was so beautiful.” The concert band performed at multiple locations on their tour. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, or the RNLI, hosted a benefit concert which featured the concert band and also a community choir, the Irish Men’s Choir in Dungarvan. This a cappella group impressed the concert band with their talent and the performance of a few songs in Gaelic. The concert band also performed at St. Multose’s Church in Kinsale and Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. At Fisherwick Presbyterian Church in Belfast, the First Old Boy’s Band and their youth band began the concert with music that “blew us all away”, according to Dr. Gerlach. Percussionist Tyler Smith said, “I felt honored to play with them for their program and at the same time was amazed at the sound and quality demonstrated by them. By playing for them, I felt that we were bringing a different style they don’t often hear.” The attendees of the concerts were very grateful for the music played for them. “We were their honored guests, and treated with a lot of respect and hospitality,” Dr. Gerlach recalls. “Audience members came to us in tears thanking us for the music.”

Dr. Gerlach was pleased with the concert band. “Every concert was a strong concert because we were well prepared,” he said. This trip was a wonderful experience for the students and the faculty. “It really brought us together as a group,” said Amber McDowell. “The teamwork portrayed in helping each other with instruments, and setting up and striking the band at each venue was wonderful.”



One of the Concert Band’s performances was at the historic Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin.

Kevin Powers

The College of the Ozarks Music Department is proud to introduce its newest full-time faculty member. Kevin Powers was born in Emporia, Kansas. He has his Bachelor of Arts in Music and Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from ESU and his Masters of Music in Conducting and Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from UMKC.

Powers' interest in music started young when he began playing trumpet in the fifth grade and continued all through junior high and high school. After high school, he attended Emporia State University where he attended Baptist Student Union. He recalls, "This group played a key role in helping me to mature in Christ, and also allowed me to meet many wonderful Christian friends (one of these eventually turned out to be my wife)." He and his wife were married in 1998.

Powers is quick to express his thanks and admiration for instructors who helped him along the way. His first trumpet teacher was an inspiration to Powers, who said he, "really mentored me as I progressed." At ESU, Powers credits multiple teachers as influential to his musicianship, including another trumpet teacher, Dr. James South, with being patient and encouraging through a difficult embouchure change for Powers. At UMKC, Powers encountered even more individuals who shaped him into the conductor and musician he now is at College of the Ozarks. One teacher who especially influenced him there was Dr. Sarah McKoin. Powers recalls her teaching, saying, "She was uncanny in her ability to look like the music through her conducting gestures. If I had to name an individual who I try to emulate, she is one."

So how exactly did Powers find out about the position opening at College of the Ozarks? "God has blessed me with a great wife; my wife was the one that found the opening on the Chronicle of Higher Education and made me aware of the position," he explains. He describes his first semester here as "...fabulous, fantastic, wonderful, fun, exciting, exhilarating, challenging (in a good way). I can't believe I am getting paid to do what I absolutely love." Powers directs concert band, pep band, jazz band, jazz combo, and teaches Exploration of Music this semester.

When asked what advice Powers would give to aspiring musicians and conductors, he had many life-lessons to share including, "Learn all you can while you are in school," and "Be easy to deal with; don't develop a reputation as one who is hard to work with."

But above all Powers stresses for not just musicians but all aspiring students, "Most importantly, commit all you do to the Lord; trust Him with your entire life; grow in your walk with Him; enjoy spending time with Him. Never forget that He has a plan for your life. *It may not happen in the time frame that you desire, but trust the Lord that He is at work in your life.*"



Sarah Westerfield

Senior Highlight



Sarah Westerfield is a senior General Music major with a vocal performance emphasis. She chose her major because, “It (music) has always been the thing in my life that I loved doing more than anything else.” She connected to music through good and bad times growing up and decided it was something she’d enjoy pursuing with a college degree.

However, upon graduation, she hopes to go in a direction of one of her other passions. “My plans are to get into the wedding industry in special event management. I have always been a bit of a romantic and I love being the one that is behind the scenes making sure everything is going perfectly.”

Sarah’s time at College of the Ozarks has influenced her a lot in the last four years. She is quick to express how much professors have meant to her, saying, “I honestly do not know where I would be without their encouragement and support.”

Fun Facts:

Favorite food: Parmesan encrusted tilapia sprinkled with lemon!

Favorite color: Royal Purple! I am very much a queen at heart!

Favorite movie: “The King and I” with Yul Brynner. For today at least...

Favorite quote: “I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living, It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope. Which is what I do, And that enables you to laugh at life's realities.” - Dr. Seuss

Favorite class you've taken at College of the Ozarks: I love my music ensembles more than any other. I love making wonderful music with my friends

Student Completes Worship Internship at Local Church

College of the Ozarks is committed to making sure students get real-life experience in their given fields. College of the Ozarks Senior, Tyler Hooker, knows first-hand the way the college prepares its students, as he is in the middle of a required music ministry internship this semester at Kimberling City United Methodist Church.

AT KCUMC, Hooker gets the opportunity to gain vital worship-leading experience at both the contemporary services and the youth group meetings Wednesday nights. This experience is meant to let him explore what it would be like as a professional music minister, and Hooker is paying close attention for his future career. He says he is hoping to learn, "...how to work with a praise team [and] how worship pastors work with other staff at the church." So far, the experience has been an inspiring one for Hooker. "It is great getting to experience worship in different settings. KCUMC is different than any church I have attended. I love leading worship and every time I do it I feel like God is teaching me something," he says.

Worship music has been a big part of Hooker's life from the start. Tyler explains, "My father taught me to play guitar when I was 10 years old. I soon started playing at church (my aunt played piano so it was neat to play with her). Eventually I started leading worship a little. Then I went to a different church and led worship for the youth group there. I have loved leading worship ever since I started." College of the Ozarks seemed like a good fit for his career choice, especially since it's already been a part of his family; he has one brother who is an alumnus and another brother who is currently attending.

So what's the next step for Tyler? He believes God is leading him a little ways up the highway from College of the Ozarks. "After college I hope to get a full time worship leadership position at a church in the Springfield area. My future wife and I would like to live just outside of Springfield. Since she is an education major there are many job opportunities in the area for both of us."



Tyler Hooker (with guitar) leads worship at Kimberling City United Methodist Church. Also pictured are Associate Pastor, Brian Smith (far left), Logan Ruckel (second from right), and Misty Curtis (far right).

College Honors Veterans and Fallen Heroes

College of the Ozarks presented one of the many memorial ceremonies held across the country on September 11th, 2013, marking the 12th anniversary of the terrorist acts of 2001. After opening the service with performance of the National anthem by the College of the Ozarks Concert Band, and the Pledge of allegiance lead by the children of the College of the Ozarks daycare and students of The School of the Ozarks, Dr. Davis, President of College of the Ozarks, shared a dedication for the many victims and their families. He was assisted by two of these families for the raising of the 9/11 Memorial Flag. The College Fire Department was joined by the Taney County Fire Department, and the College of the Ozarks daycare children, in placing small American flags in the Alumni Center lawn.



College of the Ozarks also hosted their first concert in the Royal Oak Forum this semester, dedicating the opening of a display for Vietnam Veterans at the Keeter Center. A large number of appreciative and enthusiastic veterans were in attendance and many were especially touched by the performances of our students. Both the College of the Ozarks Concert Band and the College of the Ozarks Chorale contributed to the service. The Chorale performed “An American Hymn,” “The Last Words of David,” “Eternal Father, Strong to Save,” “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need,” “The Mansions of the Lord,” and “The Lord Bless You and Keep You.” Herb Smith, owner and manager of KLFC Radio in Branson recorded and re-broadcast the Chorale portion of the concert. In addition to “The Star Spangled Banner,” the Concert Band also played “National Emblem,” “Semper Fidelis,” “Nearer, My God, to Thee,” “Washington Post March,” “God Bless America,” “Abide with Me,” and “Our Armed Forces.”



Upcoming Events

Oct. 20	3:00 pm	Carol Chapman, Soprano	Newman Recital Hall
Oct. 23	4:00 pm	Student Recital	Newman Recital Hall
Oct. 30	4:00 pm	Student Recital (Soph. Prof.)	Newman Recital Hall
Nov. 13	4:00 pm	Student Recital	Newman Recital Hall
Nov. 17	3:00 pm	Sarah Westerfield Senior Recital	Newman Recital Hall
Dec. 4	4:00 pm	Student Recital	Newman Recital Hall
Dec. 6	7:00 pm	Christmas Concert	Royal Oak Forum
Dec. 6	7:00 pm	Tree Lighting Ceremony	The Keeter Center
Dec. 11	4:00 pm	Student Recital	Newman Recital Hall
Dec. 15	7:00 pm	Christmas Card Concert	Williams Memorial Chapel

“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.

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Contact Us!

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