



Take Note!

Noteworthy Headlines from the
College of the Ozarks Music Department

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Students Travel to Los Angeles

On November 6, three College of the Ozarks students and one of the college's Music Professors boarded a plane and flew to Los Angeles, California, for a unique experience at the TAXI convention.

TAXI is an organization for independent songwriters and producers. TAXI posts advertisement listings for all sorts of things in the entertainment industry, including television shows and commercials, as well as for major artists looking for new songs. Members submit songs online and get a critique by an official registered TAXI screener who will write a critique of the song, then forward or return it. Dr. Gerlach and Elizabeth Mall are members and have submitted original work, while Jesse Eason and Danielle Roach, students also interested in music producing, were able to attend free of charge as guests.

Dr. Gerlach teaches the MIDI class at College of the Ozarks where students learn to use MIDI (musical instrument digital instrument) equipment to compose and transcribe music. From the classes at the convention, Gerlach learned more about sound engineering in his genre, orchestral and film composition, and how to better teach his students. He muses, "The musical excellence bar is high! Higher than I thought, but not out of reach. It is going to require increased diligence to attain the highest level of musical production."



Dr. Bruce Gerlach and Jesse Eason



Elizabeth Mall and Danielle Roach

Junior Danielle Roach was struck by the variety of music and people she was able to interact with at the conference, saying, "I met so many talented composers and songwriters from all over the world. I met a composer from Australia who runs his own company in Australia (Garry Smith-Jamhouse) and a songwriter and producer from England (Jonny Amos). I hadn't realized how many opportunities there were out there in the world of composing."

Senior Elizabeth Mall was inspired to take her songwriting to the next level. "I was the rookie there, but everybody was so encouraging! I have been able to keep in contact with some of the songwriters and producers I met, and was even encouraged to set up my own website, elizabethannemall.com. I think we all came

back ready to try new things with our music!"

Sarah Westerfield - Senior Recital



Maria Petete and Sarah Westerfield

level. Some highlights of her program included *Un moto di gioia* from “The Marriage of Figaro”, *Beau Soir* by Claude Debussy, *You’ll Never Walk Alone* from “Carousel”, and *Blessing* by Laura Story.

Mrs. Marilyn Dunn accompanied Sarah for most of her song selections. In *Great is thy Faithfulness* by William Runyan, Troy Heard accompanied Sarah on the Mountain Dulcimer.

Mezzo-soprano Hannah Mahan and tenor Josh Whisler sang with Sarah in *Be Thou My Vision*, arranged by The Martins. Sarah performed *Flight* by Craig Camelia, with a guest appearance from soprano Maria Petete. “I felt honored being a part of my best friend’s recital,” Maria said.

Senior Amber Holtcamp said her favorite part of the recital was the encore, when Sarah sang *I Will Rise* by Chris Tomlin. “It was really impactful,” she said.

Sarah has been singing since she was a little girl, and has been taking voice lessons since fourth grade. “For me, the most special part of my recital was having all my friends and family there to support me,” Sarah said. “I just felt so honored and loved and was reminded of how blessed my life has been in the magnificent relationships that have formed in my time at C of O!”

Sarah was very pleased with her performance. “For the first time in a very long time I was actually able to relax and just enjoy singing,” she said. “This opportunity really served as a reminder of why I chose to study music in the first place; because I love it!”



Marilyn Dunn, Sarah Westerfield, and Gregg Busch

College of the Ozarks Music Faculty Highlight

Kristin Cartwright



The College of the Ozarks' Music Department is pleased to introduce our newest vocal adjunct instructor. Kristin Cartwright comes to us with extensive experience in singing and teaching, and brings a fresh approach to studio instruction.

After graduating with an M.A. in Voice in 1998, Mrs. Cartwright taught on the voice faculty at various Christian and community colleges, performing arts studios, and maintained her own private studio. In 2007, she decided to make a change in careers, and she ventured into performing.

She met her husband Tom performing in Orlando, got married, and relocated to Branson in 2009 to join the cast of *Noah* at Sight & Sound Theatre. After performing in the cast for two seasons, she and her husband decided to become foster parents. She stayed home to begin the role of "foster mom," as well as to start her private voice studio in Branson.

This past year Mrs. Cartwright became the Vocal Director at Sight & Sound's Branson location, teaching and directing vocals when they are rehearsing a new show. "We just opened the *Miracle of Christmas* on November 2nd. Be sure to get over to see it this Christmas season!" she says.

Through her local NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) chapter, Mrs. Cartwright became acquainted with Gregg Busch. He called her when the music department began looking to hire another voice adjunct. The part-time adjunct position at C of O fits perfectly along with teaching at her home studio and vocal directing at Sight & Sound.

Mrs. Cartwright's advice for aspiring singers is, "Realize the voice that God has given them is a unique and wonderful gift. Discover and develop your own voice. Practice smart. Learn from others, but don't aspire to be them. Find out what God would have you do to use your voice for Him, whether that be perform, teach, worship, or a combination of many outlets."

MTNA Club Hosts Music Festival

November 16, the College of the Ozarks Music Teachers National Association Club held the annual MTNA Festival, where elementary and high-school aged piano students performed and were adjudicated.



This year's festival was the biggest yet, with forty-three students that participated from the studios of seven local piano teachers.

This year's judges were Mrs. Mary-Elizabeth Bradley, Anna Zachary, president of the College of the Ozarks MTNA club, and Amber McDowell, senior piano major and MTNA club member. "I really enjoyed being able to encourage the kids as they came in,

and be a positive influence on their development," Zachary said. "I remember how nervous I was when I was in recitals, and it is fun being on the other side of that—to have the roles reversed."

Each judge had to pick three or four students who performed exceptionally well, playing with good use of dynamics, keeping a steady beat, and other techniques that made the student stand out. "It was very difficult to pick just a few out of the many that performed," McDowell said. "There were so many students that played beautifully."

The time slots for the performances began at eight in the morning, and went until just past noon. At one o'clock, ten students performed in the honor's recital in the Gittinger Recital Hall. Following the recital, club sponsor and Piano Professor Dr. Dwayne Huff presented the participation certificates to all of the students present. "It was great to see young piano students, their teachers, and parents enjoying our festival and our music building," Huff said. "It is obvious from this event that there is a lot of excellent piano teaching going on in the area."



Anna Zachary



Christmas Card

To the Community



*Please join us as we celebrate
Christ's birth!*

Sunday, December 15, 2014

2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Williams Memorial Chapel

*Free admission
Open to the public*

The Music Department wishes you a
Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



Contact Us!

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

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