



# Take Note!

Noteworthy Headlines from the  
College of the Ozarks Music Department

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## Students Compete at NATS

On Tuesday, February 12th, eight College of the Ozarks singers entered the NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Musical Theatre auditions at Drury University. The students, pictured from left to right are: Madeline Clem, Gessica Renyer, Ashley Howard, Madeline Cherrito, James Zeller, Kyle Bradley, Minette Donhardt, and Elizabeth Stuart.

The singers competed with other college/university students in their age bracket. Each singer performed two contrasting songs from the Broadway genre before a panel of three voice professionals from area universities and vocal studios, who provided written comments and gave a numeric score.

After the scores were tallied, two C of O singers were awarded a first place certificate

and cash prize in their respective division; Madeline Clem and Kyle Bradley, both from the studio of Lynda Jesse, Associate Professor of Music. "I'm very proud of all our students who participated. It's so helpful to have the written critiques from the judges and for students to gain a different perspective from the opinions of other vocal teachers. And, it's a great opportunity for the students to see how they compare with other music/theatre singers from the larger universities. Our music and theatre departments have a lot to be proud of in the way our students competed and performed." (Ms. Jesse)



The singers, from the studios of Ms. Jesse and Mr. Busch, want to give special thanks to accompanists Paula Bollom, Kourtney Pyle, and Margaret Erickson for their assistance and preparation.

The evening concluded with the Winners Recital in which the first place winners from each division performed one song for the audience of participants and judges. Congratulations to all of the singers and especially to Madeline and Kyle for representing the music and theatre departments at C of O!

# Kourtney Pyle

Kourtney Pyle is a senior music major and missions minor from Hiawatha, Kansas. She began studying piano at the age of ten and continued taking lessons until after high school graduation. At the age of sixteen she began studying voice as a coloratura soprano. She enjoyed competing at local competitions and won various awards and scholarships. During her first semester at College of the Ozarks Kourtney toured Italy with the Chorale. She also participated in the performance of Brahms *Requiem* by the Springfield Symphony. As a member of the Chapel Choir, Kourtney loves using her voice in worship and praise to God. She enjoys participating in the College of the Ozarks MTNA club and jazz ensembles. Currently, Kourtney works as a music department office worker and accompanist. She also performs and teaches private music lessons. When asked about her aspirations Kourtney stated, "It will always be my desire and goal to use my musical gifts to bless others and glorify God." One of Kourtney's favorite musical quotes was stated by J. Hudson Taylor, "Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him." Kourtney will be performing her senior recital on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm in the Newman Recital Hall. She will then complete her degree in the fall of 2013.



**Major:** Music - Voice Emphasis

**Minor:** Christian Missions

**Hometown:** Hiawatha, Kansas

**Favorite Color:** Blue

**Favorite Food:** Italian

## A Trip to the Springfield Symphony

On January 19, a group of College of the Ozarks students went together with piano professor Dr. Dwayne Huff to the Springfield Symphony. Music majors and those in Music Exploration class are required to attend a certain number of on and off campus events, including a symphony performance, to earn seminar credit. This symphony performance was conducted by guest conductor Markand Thakar, who spoke with students privately and answered questions before the concert. Danielle Roach, a junior Music Major said, "He was very expressive, and I liked how he described the pieces before the symphony played them." The Springfield Symphony is auditioning conductors this year to see who



will be hired full time. Students who attended the Q & A session received free tickets to the other Symphony concerts this season.

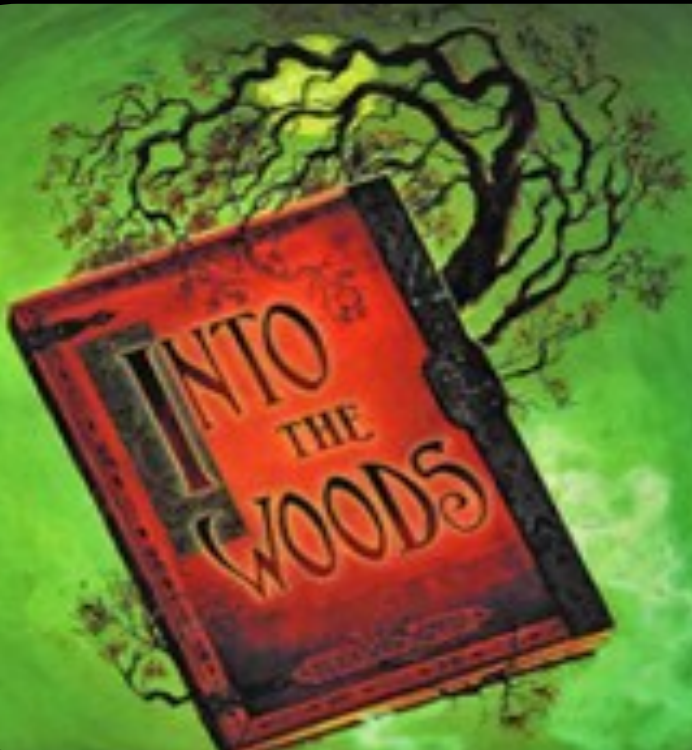


# Missouri Music Educators Association Conference

Every January, the Missouri Music Educator's Conference is held. This conference is where music teachers from all over the state come to listen to seminars, listen to performances of local ensembles, and to talk to vendors. This year, five Music Education majors, along with Dr. Bruce Gerlach, Ms. Lynda Jesse, and Ms. Marilyn Droke went to participate in the conference. The students attended seminars about their area of focus: concert bands, jazz bands, elementary music, vocal groups, or orchestras. One specific seminar that was very helpful was called "Help! I'm an Instrumentalist Teaching Choir." Kaleb Gray was one person in attendance at that seminar. Regarding the seminar, he said "I learned a lot. It happens quite often that in a small school district that you'd have to teach choir as well as band. The speaker talked about how to blend a choir, and even talked about literature suited for small choirs." In addition to the clinics and seminars, there were a large number of ensembles, from colleges to junior high, and even a few professional groups. In the evenings, everyone had the chance to listen to the All-State High School and All-Collegiate Ensembles in concert. The opportunity to go and take part in the conference is open to any Music Education majors; it only costs the registration fee to become a part of NAFME (National Association for Music Educators).



Amber Holtcamp, Sarah Westerfield, Kaleb Gray, Gessica Renyer, and Maria Petete at the MMEA conference



*College of the Ozarks*

*Departments of Theatre  
and Music Present:*

*Into the Woods*

*Jones Auditorium*

*March 1st, 2nd, 4th,  
and 5th at 7:30 pm*

*March 3rd at 2:30 pm*

*Call for Ticket Reservations:*

*417-690-2626*

# Piano Technician Explains His Trade

On Wednesday, February 13, in the Newman Recital Hall at College of the Ozarks, the Music Teachers National Association Club (MTNA) hosted a tuning demonstration presented by Darren Roos. When explaining what it is that he does as a piano tuner, he said that it is more than just tuning; it also includes adjusting the tone and touch of the piano. Roos explained the basics of how a piano works with a diagram showing the structure of a piano string, and all of the corresponding parts.

Roos then used a tuning fork to demonstrate how the soundboard in the piano works. When he tapped the tuning fork on his knee, the vibrations were only barely audible. When he put the tuning fork next to the soundboard in the piano, the vibrations from the tuning fork were amplified, and everyone in the recital hall was able to hear it. Roos then asked for a volunteer to hold the other end of a long rope while he made waves to demonstrate how the sound from the piano strings function.

Roos explained that the piano is tuned using “equal temperament”, meaning that all of the keys are equally out of tune. If a piano were to be tuned purely, then the relationships between the same keys in different octaves would not match. When explaining this in the demonstration, Roos said “Relationships are important, but some relationships are more important than others.” A piano tuner has to tune the notes in an octave imperfectly so that the same notes, in different octaves, are in unison. Roos demonstrated this by tuning three sets of pure major thirds in a row. After this was finished, he played an octave and it sounded terrible because of how out of tune the octave was!



Roos explained that when tuning a piano, a person listens for the interaction of harmonics above the notes, which are called beats. Beginner tuners have beat locators to help them tune, while more advanced tuners are accustomed to hearing the alignment of the beats. He also mentioned that the most common cause for pianos getting out of tune is not from moving pianos or from temperature changes, but it is because of changes in the humidity levels.

The teachers and students really enjoyed Roos' presentation. Elizabeth Mall said, "I'll never look at the piano the same again. The piano is like life: the little imperfections are used to make something beautiful." Roos, who has been tuning at the college for many years, graduated from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, with a degree in Music. He then apprenticed as a piano technician at Steinway Piano Gallery in St. Louis, Missouri. Roos became a Registered Piano Technician (RPT) with the Piano Technicians Guild in 2002 after passing a series of standardized written, tuning, and technical tests. He now lives in Ozark with his wife and three children, and is currently serving as President of the Southwest Missouri Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild.



# Amber Holtcamp



Year: Senior

Major: Music Education

Hometown: Sweet Springs MO

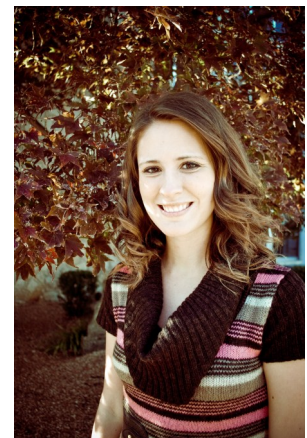
Amber first became involved in music in 5<sup>th</sup> grade band. She knew she was destined to play the flute when she was able to get a sound out on the first try, which is no easy task! Ever since then, music has become an important part of her life. Besides the flute, she also plays the saxophone, trumpet, violin and piano. While in high school, Amber received a “1” in Districts four years in a row; two of those years, she went on to receive a “1” at State. She has been involved in All-District, -Conference, and -Collegiate Bands, music festivals and camps, and several musical ensembles while here at College of the Ozarks.

Amber enjoys listening to laid back music like music from Colbie Caillat, Jason Mraz, Michael Buble, and Britt Nicole. Amber’s favorite era of music is from the romantic period. Cecile Chaminade is one of her favorite romantic composers, and is also the composer of a flute solo that Amber is preparing.

Amber’s career goal is to become a music therapist and work in a hospital setting with kids with special needs or elderly people with Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s disease.

## Branson’s Got Talent

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth Mall, senior Music Ministry major, competed at the annual *Branson’s Got Talent* competition. Held at the Clay Cooper Theater in Branson, *Branson’s Got Talent* is a local fundraiser concert for the Branson High School seniors. Mall, a singer/songwriter, says she auditioned on a whim. After seeing a flyer for auditions last semester, Mall went to the Branson Intermediate School for the first round and performed Johnny Cash’s “Hurt” on piano while singing. After receiving news she was selected to be in the top ten, Mall decided to complete an original song to perform. “I got married over Christmas break, and I wanted to write a song that reflected how love is very difficult at times, but completely worth it. My husband and I are in different states this semester as we finish our schooling, and this is a message I really think God has been teaching me.” Mall was honored to receive second place to singer and pageant winner Allison Black who took first. Mall says the experience challenged her to complete and polish up a song quickly. “This kind of competition can be a wonderful challenge to aspiring singer/songwriters. It is an experience I’d definitely like to try again!”



## Keeter Center Performers Dobyns Dining Hall

Thursday: 6:00-8:00pm  
Friday/Saturday: 5:30-8:00pm  
Sunday: 10:30-2:30pm

Thursday, Feb. 28 Noah Fry  
Friday, Mar. 1 Hannah Mahan  
Saturday, Mar. 2 Noah Fry  
Sunday, Mar. 3 Tyler Smith  
Noah Fry

Thursday, Mar. 7 T.B.A.  
Friday, Mar. 8 Kourtney Pyle  
Saturday, Mar. 9 Amber McDowell  
Sunday, Mar. 10 T.B.A.  
Elizabeth Clark

Thursday, Mar. 14 Elizabeth Clark  
Friday, Mar. 15 Anna Zachary  
Saturday, Mar. 16 Noah Fry  
Sunday, Mar. 17 Anna Zachary  
Noah Fry

Thursday, Mar. 21 Anna Zachary  
Friday, Mar. 22 Amber McDowell  
Saturday, Mar. 23 Noah Fry  
Sunday, Mar. 24 Amber McDowell  
Noah Fry

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 24-	Chris Bell Senior Recital	4:00	Newman Recital Hall
Feb. 27-	Student Recital	4:00	Newman Recital Hall
Mar. 1,2,4,5-	Spring Musical "Into The Woods"	7:30	Jones
Mar. 3-	Spring Musical "Into the Woods"	2:30	Jones
Mar. 10-	Chapel Choir & Concert Band Concert	2:00	Williams Memorial Chapel

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](mailto:music@cofo.edu)



### 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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