



# Take Note!

Noteworthy Headlines from the  
College of the Ozarks Music Department

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## Chapel Choir Tours England

On March 15<sup>th</sup> the College of the Ozarks Chapel Choir left the United States to begin their tour of England. Approximately sixty students traveled with eight sponsors. The choir was directed by Mr. Gregg Busch who was assisted by Ashley Pack, a graduate of College of the Ozarks. Mrs. Davis, Dr. Gerlach, Dr. and Mrs. Docherty, and Dr. and Mrs. Huff traveled as sponsors as well.

The choir performed at Ely Cathedral, Christ Church at Oxford, and St. George's Chapel at Windsor. Accompaniment was provided by Hannah Mahan on the piano, and Dr. Gerlach on the organ. When asked about his experience on the tour Dr. Gerlach shared, "I have had multiple opportunities to play on fine organs in our area, in Germany, and now in the UK. None will compare with St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. First, we were not going to be allowed to use the organ. That rule was changed after we arrived. While most organs in these types of churches are visually stunning, this one went far beyond that to be the perfect balance of richness, warmth, and brilliance. Usually an organ is warm or it is bright, this one was both. It had *everything* you could ever want with regard to stops, tonal resources, and timbres. It was a rare treat indeed."

The concert program included the songs "Secure", "If Ye Love Me", "I Know that My Redeemer Lives", "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", and many others. Kourtney Pyle, a soprano in the choir, shared, "It was such a blessing to worship God while being surrounded by such rich history and beautiful architecture. At times it was overwhelming!"



*Photo by Austin Meyer*

# Chapel Choir Tours England cont...

The choir also performed the piece “In the Secret” which was arranged by Dr. Bruce Gerlach for the Chapel Choir tour. He stated, “To have the choir sing my arrangement of the Praise and Worship song “In the Secret” was a special blessing. That song speaks of our deepest yearning for intimacy with Christ. The close harmonies and rich chords blossom and flower in such a way as to draw the audience and the singer into the text.”



*The choir sang at St. George's Chapel in Windsor*

The choir traveled through England visiting Bath, Salisbury, Oxford, Cambridge, Coventry, Bristol, Windsor, and finishing

up in the great city of London. They visited the Roman Baths, Salisbury Cathedral, the Cambridge Cemetery for Americans killed in World War II, Oxford University, Coventry Cathedral, Windsor Castle, and Buckingham Palace. In London, the choir toured Westminster Abbey where they saw the graves of Queen Elizabeth I, Isaac Newton, David Livingstone, George Frederic Handel, and many other historic figures. The choir also toured the Tower of London where they saw the crown jewels and the armor of ancient wars. On the final evening of the tour, the choir enjoyed hearing the Evensong service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Hannah Mahan shared, “It is



*Students visited the Cambridge American Cemetery*

one thing to tour and just see the cathedrals, but it was an eye-opening experience to hear the cathedrals used for what they were built for. The boys' choirs in the Eucharist and Evensong services performed the music that was composed to be sung in those places. It was breathtaking!”

It was the prayer of the Chapel Choir that through this trip God would be glorified. The purpose of the tour was not simply to visit England, but to proclaim Christ. Worshipping God in song across the ocean was a life-changing event that none of the choir members will ever forget.



*The Chapel Choir after their program at Christ Church, Oxford*

# Gessica Renyer



Gessica Renyer's main instrument is her voice, but she also plays some piano and guitar. She grew up always singing or humming, so music became a part of her life at an early age. She has been involved in a church choir since the sixth grade, which is where she first started singing in a group setting. Gessica was home-schooled until high school, and then she started singing in school choirs. She currently sings in the choir at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church.

After student teaching, Gessica wants to go to a Catholic theology graduate school. She says, "I want to get married eventually, but not until I am ready to understand the sacrifices in that. I want to experience the great adventure the Lord has planned for me."

When asked for a favorite quote, Gessica replied, "I like all sorts of inspirational quotes, and people in general inspire me. It may be the superstar athlete who sacrifices a point or play to his teammate, or the 12-year old boy who sings like an angel. It gives me joy to see others doing things to glorify God, and it inspires me to do the same."

Major: Music Education

K<sub>12</sub> Choral

Hometown: Sabetha, Kansas

Favorite Music: All Types!

Favorite Foods: Mexican, Italian, and Chinese

Favorite Colors: Blue and Green

## Julian Johnson's Book— Classical Music: Who Needs It?

One Saturday morning as I rubbed the sleep out of my eyes, I began to read and highlight an excerpt of what looked to be a very dry assigned reading for Music History. Luckily, it turned out to be a smashing chapter from Julian Johnson's book, "Who Needs Classical Music?: Cultural Choice and Musical Value." This brief section talked about elitism, which is just a fancy term for snobbish groups of people and social functions. This prompted me to think deeply about the elitist label linked to classical music and the upper class that often supports and enjoys it.

Growing up on a farm, my family listened to classical music frequently. I enjoyed classical music at an early age, but my love for it was cultivated when I began to study piano in college. My first piano instructor was an avid supporter of classical music, and it was her love for the deep expression of classical music that ignited a passion within me. I did not think classical music was elitist, but I realized that much of its financial support and promotion comes from a very elite class of people.

In his book, Julian Johnson honestly acknowledges the elite sector of society that supports and promotes classical music, and says these people can give it a bad name. Johnson argues for a more fair evaluation of classical music apart from this elite class of people. In his climactic conclusion, Johnson proposes classical music and all art's true value to be a picture of nature's redemption saying, "Art is fundamentally utopian: it embodies the human hope that the world and we who inhabit it might be remade. As such, it is critical of the here and now even as it redeems." Johnson explains that classical music confronts listeners with something beyond themselves, and allows them to catch glimpses of a perfect reality.

I think that Johnson's argument is spot-on. From a biblical perspective, he seems to be describing creation's longing to see all things redeemed by God. From his arguments, I concluded that art is truly sacred. In art, humanity gets a glimpse of God's original creative order and we are inspired to hope for the final redemption of creation. Johnson soundly redeemed art from the label of elitism.

- *Hugh Merous* (aka Junior Noah Fry)

# MTNA Conference in SoCal

On March 9-13, piano professor Dr. Dwayne Huff, his wife, Theresa Huff, and Music Department worker and MTNA club president, Anna Zachary attended the MTNA Conference (Music Teachers National Association) in Anaheim, California. The conference consisted of a variety of music seminars, showcases, and piano master classes that were designed to inform teachers of new piano methods, techniques, and materials available to them. Teachers came from all over the nation to hear speakers as well as get free and discounted materials.

Zachary shared some things that stood out to her on the trip: "I discovered the Music Link Foundation, which connects kids in need with teachers who are willing to teach lessons for half price. It is a super cool program that has reached over 5000 kids. I also listened to the incredible "Anderson & Roe" duo's recital. They are graduates from Juilliard and perform all over the world now. And as for being a piano teacher, I learned new techniques for keeping kids' attention in lessons as well."



The exhibit hall at the conference included dozens of vendors from around the world.



The conference was held at the beautiful Disney Resort in Anaheim, California.

Huff said, "These experiences are such an important part of what we provide our students at C of O. It's vital for them to realize that four years of college training are just the beginning of their professional development. Attending these conferences plants the seed of developing a habit of life-long learning!" Next year, the entire MTNA club plans to attend the annual conference in Chicago, Illinois

**MTNA**

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Year: Sophomore  
 Major: Criminal Justice  
 Minor: Music  
 Hometown: Port Alleghany, PA

# Tyler Smith

Tyler Smith, born July 21, 1993, is a second semester sophomore working in the Music Office. He is a Criminal Justice major from Port Alleghany, Pennsylvania. Tyler was involved in almost all aspects of his high school's music program. He was a member of the Show Choir, Chamber Singers, Chorale, Concert Band, Marching Band, and Jazz Band. He has also performed in the pit for the opera *Aida*, as well as the musical *Into the Woods* at College of the Ozarks. Tyler is also a pianist. He worked as the student accompanist for the Port Alleghany High School Choir on their trip to Disney World. In addition to being an accompanist to his choir, Tyler also worked as a pianist for 3 weddings, the National Honor Society, and has played at Assisted Living Homes.

Here at College of the Ozarks, Tyler is still very involved with many aspects of student life. Tyler has been a member of the Chorale and Pep Band, and he is currently a member of the Concert Band. Tyler is also a part of the Criminal Justice club and D.I.R.T (Disaster and Incidence Response Team).

## *S of O and C of O Alumni Choristers and Classmates Concert Collaboration!*

*Friday - Saturday ♦ Gittinger Music Building*

*Friday, April 12th*

*Reunion - 6:30 pm*

*Rehearsal - 7:00-9:00 pm*



*Sunday, April 14th*

*Concert - 3:00 pm*

*Williams Memorial Chapel*

*Saturday, April 13th*

*Snacks - 9:30 am*

*Rehearsal - 10:00 am-5:00 pm*

*Lynda Jesse, Conductor*

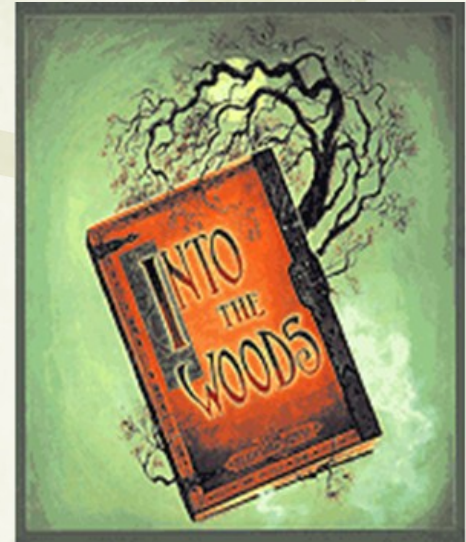
*Margaret Erickson, Accompanist*

# College of the Ozarks presents Into the Woods

On March 1-5, College of the Ozarks Departments of Theatre and Music presented the Musical, "Into the Woods", in which James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim take everyone's favorite storybook characters and bring them together for a timeless yet relevant modern classic.

The story follows a Baker and his wife who wish to have a child, Cinderella who wishes to attend the King's Festival, and Jack who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

Maria Petete, a Senior Music Education Major with a Minor in Theatre, has played the oboe in the Pit Orchestra for *Kiss Me Kate* and *Little Women*. This year, Maria changed rolls and became an audience member. Maria commented on the changes from being in the Pit to becoming an audience member. "When performing in the Pit, I usually have no idea what is going on up on stage. I'll hear laughter from the audience and not necessarily know what they are laughing about."



*Members of the pit warm up for the musical*

When asked about how it felt being an audience member, Maria replied, "I felt left out knowing that there are events happening under the stage that I am not a part of." Maria explained her favorite part of the Musical, "I had a great idea last year that Mr. Busch needed something to keep his baton from flying out of the Pit. My dad drilled a hole in the end of a baton and tied a Wii strap to it. I waited for

months to finally give it to him. On opening night, I presented it to him and his reaction was priceless." Into the Woods was Senior English Major Julianne Albus' first musical. "I never tried out for a musical before because I never thought I was good enough. I realized that what I thought didn't matter. It just mattered that I worked hard and enjoyed it as much as I could before I graduated."

I waited for

months to finally give it to him. On opening night, I presented it to him and his reaction was priceless."



*Cinderella talks to her birds*

When asked what one positive and negative aspect of performing was, Julianne responded by saying, “One positive aspect of performing musical theatre is that you have a lot more freedom of expression than you would have if you were performing classical music in a recital. You use the whole self to express your character, and I like that. I don’t think there really is a negative aspect of performing, just difficult aspects. One thing I found a bit more difficult is how you have to always be present in your character. The most difficult aspect of the musical for me was singing and dancing at the same time. A singer has to keep their core fairly stationary, so it took



*Little Red challenges the Giant as the others look on*

a little to master skipping across stage and keep a steady stream of music going.” Julianne commented on the feelings felt after performing the Musical. “It was intense; you have to concentrate on your character and technique at the same time while trying not to let your nerves get in the way. After the first night things were a lot better because I knew what to expect. I liked it. After we were done each night I think everyone was happy and satisfied, kind of like, “Yay! We did it!” Then we went our separate ways to go get dinner, do homework and get as much sleep as we could.” As the performances wrapped up, students began to fall back into their “normal selves” and back to normal campus life instead of the theatrical state of mind. All in all, the musical was a success and was well enjoyed by all.



*The Baker and his wife talk with Little Red*



*The Cast sings the final song*

## Keeter Center Performers Dobyns Dining Hall

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

Thursday, Mar. 28 Amber McDowell  
Friday, Mar. 29 Amber McDowell  
Saturday, Mar. 30 Hannah Mahan  
Sunday, Mar. 31 Hannah Mahan

Thursday, Apr. 4 Kourtney Pyle  
Friday, Apr. 5 Music Dept. Showcase  
Saturday, Apr. 6 Tyler Smith  
Sunday, Apr. 7 Tyler Smith  
Noah Fry

Thursday, Apr. 11 Elizabeth Mall  
Friday, Apr. 12 Hannah Mahan  
Saturday, Apr. 13 Kourtney Pyle  
Sunday, Apr. 14 Anna Zachary  
Hannah Mahan

Thursday, Apr. 18 Kourtney Pyle  
Friday, Apr. 19 Noah Fry  
Saturday, Apr. 20 Tyler Smith  
Sunday, Apr. 21 Amber McDowell  
Noah Fry

## Upcoming Events

Apr. 3	Student Recital	4:00	Newman Recital Hall
Apr. 5	Music Department Showcase	6:30	Dobyns Dining Hall
Apr. 6	MNTA Recital	2:00	Newman Recital Hall
Apr. 9	Jazz Band/Handbells Concert	TBA	Royal Oak Forum
Apr. 13	Chorale 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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