



# Take Note!

Noteworthy Headlines from the  
College of the Ozarks Music Department



## *A Tempo:* Students Get Back Up to Speed for the New Semester

On August 23, 2010, College of the Ozarks students experienced a rude awakening to their relaxing summer routine—we call it “the first day of school.” Coming back to school at the end of each summer is always bittersweet. For some students who try to take it easy during the summer months it means getting reacquainted with the alarm clock and saying goodbye to the pool. For others who work on or off campus during the summer to save up a little cash, it means coming back to the exciting social scene of

college life. Either way, it always takes students a little while to readjust to the fast-paced C of O lifestyle.

Students involved in the C of O music department are no exception to this rule as classes, rehearsals, work, and performances take off full-blast! The Chapel Choir began singing in chapel services the first Sunday back, August 27. The Concert Band prepared music that they performed at the College’s September 11 memorial service last Saturday. Student performers are practicing to get

ready for the first student recital on September 29. The Chorale is quickly gearing up to perform at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival on October 2.

Be sure to take a look at the back of this newsletter for more information on all of our scheduled events for the Fall 2010 semester. All of our events are open to the public and most are free of charge, so we would love to have you there to support our music students and encourage their growth as leaders in performance, education, and ministry.

## *Competitive Spirit Shines in C of O Music Students*

One of the many perks of being a part of the College of the Ozarks’ small but strong music program is the absence of the cutthroat competitive atmosphere that is found in many larger universities. At C of O, students are able to challenge themselves to grow musically under our qualified staff without the stress of constant competition. However, there are advantages to competition in the musical world, as most of us know, which is why more of our music students are being encouraged to enter contests and

competitions for their own musical development.

This year, three of our featured pianists: Grant Allen, Caleb Lawson, and Aaron Richardson, all from the studio of Dr. Dwayne Huff, Associate Professor of Music, will be competing in the Missouri Music Teachers Association (MMTA) piano competition hosted by Truman State University in November. Grant Allen says that “The MMTA is the most intense musical event that C of O pianists have ever endeavored to undertake.”

Also, Associate Professor

of Music Lynda Jesse will be taking a group of singers to the National Association for Teachers of Singing (NATS) vocal competition again this year in October. Megan Campbell, Daniel Cummings, Ashley Pack, Sadie Huff, Dominique Bennett, Kyle Bradley, and Seth Rector will all be competing in their respective age divisions. While C of O sends students to NATS annually, the number of participants each year continues to grow. We are very exciting for our competing students and wish them the best of luck!



# *In Memoriam*

*Dr. John Mizell*

*College of the Ozarks 1959-2009*

On August 30, 2010, the College of the Ozarks Music Department and the Branson Arts community mourned the loss of one of their most cherished musicians. Dr. John Mizell began serving at the College of the Ozarks as a teacher and conductor in 1959, and even after his retirement in 1993, he remained on staff as an adjunct professor until 2009. Throughout his tenure here, Dr. Mizell taught voice, choral conducting, Chapel Choir, and Chorale, and also conducted over 75 operas and musicals. Through his dedicated teaching and commitment to excellent music, Dr. Mizell touched the lives of many colleagues and students, including many that have gone on to pursue musical careers and some who are still attending the College as music students today.

Before his years at the College, Dr. Mizell served in the US Navy for three years in the South Pacific during World War II. Afterwards, he attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, where he toured with the Westminster Choir and received a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice and a Master of Music in Conducting. In 1951, he debuted his professional singing career with the Philadelphia Orchestra after winning the "Voice of Tomorrow" award. Dr. Mizell received a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from University of Missouri Kansas City in 1969 while teaching at College of the Ozarks.

Dr. Mizell also left a lasting legacy on the Branson-area community. He worked as musical consultant for Silver Dollar City, served as music director for the Kimberling City United Methodist Church, volunteered several summers at Opera in the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, AR, and adjudicated many state and district contests.

The College of the Ozarks, in coordination with the Mizell family, held a Celebration Service in honor of the life of Dr. John Mizell, Sunday, September 12, 2010 at the Williams Memorial Chapel. The Chapel Choir and Chorale performed music dedicated to his legacy as a musician, and each group was conducted by his former students. The service was a time of sharing in memory of the joyous and influential life of our beloved musician, teacher, colleague, and dear friend, Dr. John Mizell.

*How many of us ever stop to think of music  
as a wondrous, magic link with God?  
Taking, oft times, the place of prayer  
when words have failed us neath a load of care.  
Music, that knows no language, race or creed,  
but gives to each according to his needs.*

*-Anonymous*

# New Faces to Perform at the Keeter Center

One of the many areas that the music department serves in is providing music and entertainment in Dobyn's Dining Hall at the Keeter Center each weekend. This semester we have several new performers who will be adding their musical talent to our regular group of restaurant entertainers. Anna Zachary is a freshman from Springfield, Missouri who has been playing the piano since she was 7 years old. At the Keeter Center, Anna will accompany our newest singer, Ashley Pack, a junior from Sherwood, Arkansas who is majoring in choral music education.

Sadie Jane Huff is a sophomore from Lonedell, Missouri who will perform as both a pianist and singer. She has been playing the piano and singing since she was 7 years old.

The Keeter Center performers are chosen from a group of 10-11 students who work in the Music Department office as their on-campus work station. These students are often music majors, but through the years have included many from different academic areas including Business, Art, and Elementary Education. Along with performing at the Keeter Center, the music work-

ers are responsible for accompanying applied voice and instrumental students, assisting music professors and students, music tutoring, and a variety of other jobs, including publishing this newsletter!

We are very excited to have our new music workers and performers on board and are looking forward to another exciting semester of sharing our music with you! For more information about our department or what we do at the Keeter Center, please give us a call, send us an email, or visit us on the web at [www.cofo.edu/music](http://www.cofo.edu/music).

## Keeter Center Performers Dobyns Dining Hall

*Thursday, September 16—Sadie Huff, Piano/Vocals*

*Friday, September 17—Grant Allen, Piano*

*Saturday, September 18—Caleb Lawson/Dom Bennett, Piano/Vocal*

*Sunday, September 19—Lora Guerin,, Piano*

**Thursday:**  
6:00-8:00pm  
**Friday/Saturday:**  
5:30-8:00pm  
**Sunday:**  
10:30-1:30pm

*Thursday, September 23—Sadie Huff, Piano/Vocals*

*Friday, September 24—Caleb Lawson/Dom Bennett, Piano/Vocals*

*Saturday, September 25—Grant Allen, Piano*

*Sunday, September 26—T.B.A.*

*Thursday, September 30—Sadie Huff, Piano/Vocals*

*Friday, October 1—Anna Zachary/Ashley Pack,  
Piano/Vocals*

*Saturday, October 2—Caleb Lawson, Piano*

*Sunday, October 3—T.B.A.*

*Thursday, October 7—Sadie Huff, Piano/Vocals*

*Friday, October 8—Caleb Lawson/Dom Bennett,  
Piano/Vocals*

*Saturday, October 9—Anna Zachary/Ashley Pack,  
Piano/Vocals*

*Sunday, October 10—Lora Guerin, Piano*

We invite you to join us at the Keeter Center at any opportunity you have! We welcome and encourage your comments, complaints, suggestions, and of course, compliments. Please fill out a comment card or email the Keeter Center or the Music Department and we will accommodate your needs as best we can!

Germany — Switzerland — Austria — France



Dr. Huff and music students pose in front of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France.



Grant Allen and Ethan Hall get ready to enjoy the Passion Play.

Students enjoy Salzburg, Austria, the birthplace of W.A. Mozart



On May 10-21, 2010, ten music majors and minors were chosen to accompany students from the Psychology and Philosophy & Religion departments to Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and France. Music professor Dr. Dwayne Huff and wife Theresa went on the trip to chaperone students to many historical musical sites. One of the many highlights of the trip included visiting Salzburg, Austria—the birthplace of Mozart. Here, students got to see the house where W.A. Mozart was born, a student recital at the famous Mozarteum, and many of the settings from the film *The Sound of Music*. Another historical site visited by the students was Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest in Germany, a site originally suspected by the Allies to be his headquarters during WWII, although it was actually only birthday present that served as a

retreat home for Adolf Hitler. Other memora-

ble cities and sites included Lucerne, Switzerland, temporary residence of Wagner; the concentration camp at Dachau, Germany; Rotenburg, the best preserved walled city in Germany; Neuschwanstein Castle, after which was modeled the castle of “Sleeping Beauty”; and of

live production used singers, an orchestra, and even live animals to tell the story



Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest, Germany

# International

course the famous sights and sounds of Paris, France.

Dr. Huff said that “It was such a pleasure to get to introduce my students to these amazing sites! Reading about them in textbooks is one thing, but getting to experience them first-hand is really special.”

Apart from all these wonderful sites, though, the real feature of the trip was attending the original Oberammergau Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. This

of the Passion of Christ. This particular production was the continuation of a historic event, having been performed every 10 years since 1634! Senior music minor Adam Parker said this about the experience: “I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to experience the passion play in Oberammergau. I was moved by the ability of the arts to portray this timeless story. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience.”

The culmination of experiences the students and chaperones were able to enjoy truly enriched the lives of all who went!



(above) Group poses for photo in Salzburg, Austria  
Theresa Huff with students in Lichtenstein (right)







(left) Lynda Jesse at the Gardens of Peter the Great  
(below) Nadya calls the shots!



In May, Associate Professor of Music Lynda

Jesse, participated in a concert tour of Russia with *Messiah Project*, a non-profit arts organization founded to integrate the arts through a variety of means. Since 1996, *Messiah Project* has sponsored many missions into Europe

local choir. According to Ms. Jesse, “The first rehearsal was quite interesting. There was no time to settle into a comfortable rehearsal scenario of warm-ups, introductions, or anything congenial. It was all business and off we went, warbling our best melismas and trying to figure out Ilya’s beat patterns!” Though the rehearsal was quite chaotic, eventually the group came together and later that evening, their first performance was well-received by the St. Petersburg audience.

The group enjoyed sight-seeing and visiting many famous museums, palaces, and cathedrals while in St. Petersburg before traveling to Moscow. Along the way, the group stopped for a church service in Novgorod, one of the oldest cities in Russia. Ms. Jesse recounted that “The church performance was very special. The congregation was so enthusiastic about our presence in their church. I was particularly blessed to be able to conduct the choir in a setting of the Lord’s Prayer, which was sung in Russian.”

The group continued to Moscow to prepare for an historic

event. Under Bolshevik rule, Handel’s *Messiah* would have never been allowed to be performed in the Kremlin Palace Theatre. It was literally an act of God that the concert took place and even after the group arrived in the concert hall, there were still negotiations being settled in regard to the performance. “One of our 1996 tour escorts, who later became a close friend of the college, was on hand to help translate the needs of the artistic directors and settle disputes,” Jesse said. “Nadya was given a headset to call the lighting cues during rehearsal after the choreographer had to take a ‘break’ to settle his nerves. Thankfully, she was able to bring everyone together and the show went on, this time with players from the Moscow Philharmonic and a choir from Germany! All in all, it was an interesting experience to travel to this part of the world again, sing with enthusiastic and committed musicians and to be a part of this musical mission of presenting Handel’s glorious *Messiah*.”



Ms. Jesse poses with Nadya in Moscow, Russia.

# Adventures

and Asia in some 17 different nations and 50 cities.

The goal of the tour, called “Merging of Two Worlds” was to present Handel’s *Messiah* to Russian audiences in St. Petersburg and Moscow. The ensemble was comprised of singers from Springfield, St. Louis, Kansas City and the Tri-Lakes area. After several weeks of rehearsal, the group departed for St. Petersburg where they met their Russian conductor, Ilya, orchestra players from the St. Petersburg Conservatory, and a

# ← Russia →

# Fall 2010 Calendar of Events

## September



- 3 Piano Quintet Concert  
Newman Recital Hall, 2 pm
- 4 NATS Vocal Master Class  
Newman Recital Hall, 7:30 pm
- 11 NATS Vocal Recital  
Newman Recital Hall, 7:30 pm
- 13 Music Department Student Recital  
Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm
- 27 MMTA Piano Recital

- 22 Vocal Studio Recital/Workshop  
Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm
- 27 Concert Band & Chapel Choir Concert  
CC Patio (by Lake Honor), 6pm
- 29 Music Department Student Recital  
Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm

## October



- 3 Vocal Studio Recital  
Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm
- 14 Evangel University Orchestra  
Royal Oak Forum, 3 pm
- 17 Music Department Student Recital  
Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm

## November



- 1 Concert Band Christmas Concert  
Royal Oak Forum, 7 pm
- 8 Music Department Student Recital  
Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm
- 12 Christmas Card Concert  
Williams Memorial Chapel 7 pm

## December



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

### 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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