The city of Joplin was struck by an E5 tornado in the late afternoon of Sunday, May 22, 2011. This tornado holds the rank of seventh-deadliest in US history with total deaths tolling 159. The tornado destroyed businesses, homes, and schools. The Joplin Schools’ Music Departments have been deeply affected. Rick Castor, Joplin High School Band Director, states "there is still a need for specialty instruments, funds to help students with their participation fees for marching band and color guard, and much more. The orchestra and choir program, those in elementary, middle school and junior high music, have all been affected by this devastating storm.”

Our department will be putting on a benefit for the Joplin schools music departments. "Jammin’ for Joplin" will feature the Chorale, Chapel Choir, Handbell Choir, and Concert Band. This benefit concert will take place September 25 at 3pm in the Jones Auditorium. There will be an opportunity to donate money following the concert. Cash and checks will be accepted. We hope that you will join us for an evening filled with music, and the opportunity to help our neighbors in need!

-Article submitted by: Abby Van Gilder
The Chorale Musicale Tour d’Italia

The Chorale spent ten days touring the country that had some of the strongest influence on vocal music: Italy. They landed in Rome, and were greeted by their tour guide, Vanessa Nicol. She was a delightful local that stayed with the group the entire trip. Additional local tour guides guided the group to various cities of Rome, Florence, Siena, Venice, Padova, Verona, Milan, and several smaller cities along the way.

Students had the opportunity to shop at local markets, tour local museums and churches, and eat at several restaurants. Some of the big places the students visited were the Uffizi Museum in Florence, the Vatican City, La Scala Opera House in Milan, and Juliet’s house in Verona. Everyone also enjoyed a boat ride on Lake Garda while in Sir-mione, and also gondola rides in Venice which were provided.

The group performed at the church of St. Ignatius in Rome, where Mozart and Palestrina had performed concerts. They also did several mass services at places such as the Pantheon in Rome, St. Anthony’s Basilica in Padova (where several of Donatello’s sculptures are displayed), and St. Mark’s in Venice.

The following students had the incredible privilege of having a master class with conductor Giovanni Andreoli in Verona: graduate Dom Bennett, Senior Ashley Pack, and former student Megan Campbell. Andreoli listened to each student perform an aria, and gave them feedback. All three students felt overwhelmed with the experience. It was very exciting to be working with someone so accomplished, yet also very intimidating. However, it was incredibly beneficial as performers.

Aside from these performances, the group was also spotted breaking into song in the streets, on sidewalks, and in airports. Sometimes even in an empty church! Former student Grant Chambers described one of these moments as “bathing in our own music.”

Needless to say, the group was very blessed by the trip, and students gained invaluable experience that will last them a lifetime.

Holtcamp Recaps Summer Job

This summer I had the great experience of working at a music camp held at the State University of New York-Oneonta campus. This was a very unique experience and I learned many different skills that I know I will never forget.

My trip began on June 22nd, 2011 when I flew 5 ½ hours from Kansas City to Albany. We had several meetings for the first few days we were there in preparation for the kids’ arrival on the 26th.

After that, everyone auditioned for the different ensembles they wished to be in. In my first two weeks I was placed in the Symphonic Band on piccolo and in the Wind Ensemble on the flute. I took flute lessons as well as I participated in the flute choir.

During the first two weeks, I learned what I was doing incorrectly, what I was doing properly, and what I needed to better develop. I learned better techniques for flute, piano, and singing. I also improved my aural skills. In this first session, I was invited by my choir director to attend the opening of Carmen at the Glimmerglass Opera house in a nearby city. This was my first time I had been to an opera or saw anything live in a foreign language.

When the second two weeks rolled around we received a new group of students and auditioned for the ensembles again. I did the same as the
The ensembles of the music department broke away from tradition this May. Chorale and Handbells typically perform a European music tour together every 4 years; this year, however, the two groups travelled separately. Handbells decided to travel to Ireland and England (the origination of handbells). Lugging some 20-odd cases of handbells, in addition to standard traveling luggage was no easy task! According to Irish bus driver, Colm, "Twould 've been a lot easier if you had been a flute choir!" The Handbells performed for a small international school, mostly attended by children from the embassy. The second concert was at the American Embassy in Dublin. The Irish people were awed by the handbells, and at the end of each concert, they would come up and request more songs so that they could record the bells up close on their phones, cameras, or any electronic device they could get their hands on. The choir was very sad to leave Ireland, but England was also a delightful experience. Handbells played more concerts in Ireland, but they were able to do more sightseeing and touring in England. Driving through Wales, walking the walls of Chester, seeing Stonehenge, Bath, Salisbury, Worcester, and finally London itself was incredible! The choir played a coffee-house style concert in Bath, and the final concert was at a cathedral in London. The final day was spent travelling all over London, and the group reminisced about memories and stories from both countries all during the long flight home. Some people had travelled to Europe several times before; others had not even been out of the country. Even then, everyone agreed that it had been one of the best experiences imaginable. What a blessing to be at a college that sends students overseas to perform music, simply out of pure enjoyment.

-Continued from Holtcamp

For Symphonic Band I was loaned a plastic piccolo to play. It had the best tone I have ever heard. The plastic piccolo is a new invention and was made in New Jersey by a man named Guo.

In the third session, I auditioned and made the symphony orchestra on piccolo. We performed Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 7 movements I, III, IV. I learned how to play in an orchestra and a band. This was my favorite part of the summer. I also taught a flute choir of 12-14 year olds. I learned how flexible you really need to be as a teacher. My leadership skills also improved through this experience.

I was privileged to meet and work with many great instrumentalists and singers from all over the world. They ranged from Jon Fredric West, an opera singer, John Patitucci, a jazz bass player, to Steven Reineke, conductor of the NY Pops and composer to Keisuke Hoashi, actor from LA, California to lastly, Maurice Hines: singer, tap dancer, and Broadway singer. I made many great memories and professional contacts. I would encourage others to try similar summer jobs. My hope is that they would get as much out of it as I did. It was a wonderful, rewarding experience.

-Article submitted by Amber Holtcamp

Top: Student pause in front of the Royal Circus
Bottom: Sophomore Hannah Mahan poses at Stonehenge
Future Piano Teachers Attend KC Workshop

Members of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) club hit the ground running this semester. After just one week of classes Dr. Dwayne Huff, sponsor of the club, accompanied his wife Theresa Huff, junior Sadie Huff, and sophomore Anna Zachary to Kansas City for a workshop on Saturday, August 27. The event which was hosted by the music department of UMKC, was offered to studio music teachers from across the region. There were participants from Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas.

The workshop was sponsored by the Achievement Program, a new national curriculum for studio music teachers which covers repertoire, technique, sight-reading, theory, and aural skills at different grades or levels. The Achievement Program was put together by the educational branch of Carnegie Hall and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Huff, whose piano training as a child in Germany was largely shaped by the Royal Conservatory program, was enthusiastic about the new Achievement Program.

“This workshop was very beneficial for us both. It gave us a head-start on our professional development, which should be beneficial to our students later.”

-Sadie Huff

The College of the Ozarks MTNA club is open to students who are interested in studio music teaching. Please contact Dr. Huff or club president Grant Allen for more information.

Article submitted by:
Dr. Dwayne Huff
Associate Professor of Music

Meet our new workers!!!

We have started out the beautiful fall semester with a jolly group of “old” folks, but we have also added some bright new faces into the mix. Here’s the rundown on this semester’s office help:

Kourtney Pyle is from Hiawatha, KS and is a talented vocalist and pianist. She loves using her gifts for the Lord and looks forward to what He has for her in the future.

Abby Van Gilder is from Branson, MO and is a talented vocalist. She recently made it through several rounds of auditions on American Idol and is excited for her future career.

Hannah Mahan is from Ozark, AR and plays various instruments as well as sings. She is the new Chapel Choir pianist and loves the Lord.

Noah Fry is from Collinsville, OK and is studying to be a concert pianist. He is extremely talented and a joy to be around!

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Keeter Center Performers
Dobyns Dining Hall

Thursday, September 22—Sadie Huff, Piano
Friday, September 23—Sadie Huff, Piano
Saturday, September 24—Noah Fry, Piano
Sunday, September 25—Kourtney Pyle, Piano

Thursday, September 29—Kourtney Pyle, Piano
Friday, September 30—Elizabeth Clark, Piano
Saturday, October 1—Grant Allen, Piano
Sunday, October 2—Kourtney Pyle and Hannah Mahan, Piano

Upcoming Events

September 25—Jammin’ for Joplin Benefit Concert, Jones Theatre 3 pm
September 28—Music Department Student Recital, Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm
October 5—NATS Student Recital, Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm
October 12—Music Department Student Recital (Sophomore Proficiency), Newman Recital Hall, 4 pm

Oct 25—Chorale and Jazz Band concert, Jones Theatre 7 pm
November 5—Music Alumni Meeting, Newman Recital Hall 10 am

(Contact bsmither@cofo.edu

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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