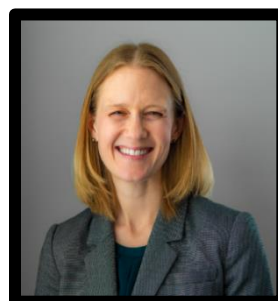


## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As this semester—my first at Muskingum—draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the new faces, new ideas, hard work, and inspiring music of a busy but rewarding few months. November was a constant stream of activity as we learned, shared, and made music on campus and beyond. Following a few final hills to climb, the academic cycle means that soon we rest, reflect, and— all too soon— prepare for the start of a new semester. Our students and directors have worked hard all month to present beautiful and thought-provoking performances. From the combined, “kaleidoscopic” performance of the Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble at the beginning of the month, through smaller presentations of our chamber groups, Musical Theatre Ensemble, and a stellar senior recital by vocalist Robert Moore, to the rousing sounds of Latin America with the Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds and the rock strains of Muskie Rocks at Weasel Boy Brewing Company in Zanesville, our musicians have done what they do best: bringing music to the entire campus and regional community. At the same time, some 100 regional high-school students brought their musical talents to campus to participate in a day of learning and making music with the band/choir YouthFest. We can’t wait to expand this event even further among surrounding schools in the years to come. Our students have taken their knowledge and energy out to the local schools, sharing information about careers in music with students at Morgan West Elementary School. Dr. Abeyaratne has taken his beautiful piano-playing to performances in Texas, West Virginia, and the recording studio. Meanwhile, I’ve been busy traveling: first, to the joint “mega-conference” of the American Musicological Society, the Society for Ethnomusicology, and the Society for Music Theory in New Orleans to share new research on music and disability and then to the annual meeting for the National Association of Schools of Music in St. Louis to connect with member institutions from around the country and discuss the ins and outs of the accreditation process (which we renew next year). We now prepare for two final concerts of the semester: the Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra presents a holiday spectacular at Secrest Auditorium in Zanesville on December 1 and a variety of student, faculty, and professional musicians join forces for the annual Muskingum Christmas Festival in Brown Chapel on December 3. As we enter this holiday season, I hope you find time to rest, reflect, and make music!

With warm regards,

Dr. Erin Bauer  
Chair and Associate Professor of Musicology



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## Christmas Festival

On Saturday, December 3 (7:00 pm in Brown Chapel), a wide range of musicians from across the campus community will join forces to present the annual Muskingum Christmas Festival. With prelude and postlude music presented by small wind ensembles, large orchestral pieces by Claudio Monteverdi and Ralph Vaughan Williams, and a range of choral works in combination with readings and carols, the evening promises to provide an inspiring start to the holiday season and a beautiful conclusion to the fall semester.

## National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)

Did you know that Muskingum has been an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) since 1935? The organization itself has only been in existence since 1927. We are currently one of 637 institutions across the United States to hold this distinction.

**NASM** | NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

# Weasel Boy Brewing Company

Muskie Rocks recently brought down the house at Weasel Boy Brewing Company in Zanesville with covers of a range of classic rock (and more recent) tunes. A great crowd and great music! We can't wait to see where they go next! Keep an eye on their performance schedule and come out to support these talented student musicians.

# Sabbatical Concerts

After a lovely Halloween-weekend performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City, Dr. Abeyaratne wrapped up his slate of sabbatical performances with concerts at Texas A&M University in Commerce and West Liberty University in West Virginia. The leave has offered tremendous experiences, both for the performer and the audiences who were fortunate to hear him play. We look forward to Dr. Abeyaratne's return to the classroom in the spring semester.



# YouthFest Returned to Campus

Almost 100 high school students from thirteen different high schools participated in the return of the Choral and Instrumental YouthFest on November 5. Students participated in various rehearsals, masterclasses, and workshops with Muskingum faculty and students. They presented a showcase performance at the end of the day to share what they learned during the day, which included a concert choir, concert band, and a hand drumming ensemble. Directors were also invited to spend the day with us and a special presentation was made to them by Dr. Strychacz, Director of Choral Studies.



# Students Selected for Honors Band

Five Muskingum students were selected to perform in the Ohio Private College Instrumental Conductors Association (OPCICA) Honors Concert Band at the annual honors festival in January at Case Western Reserve University. Students from nineteen different private colleges throughout Ohio are represented in the honors band. The Muskingum students selected are Victoria Vankirk-Hochstetler, contrabass clarinet; Sarah Heading, alto saxophone; Robert Moore, tuba; David Hochstetler, percussion; and Addie Young, percussion. The honors festival consists of the Honors Concert Band and the Honors Jazz Ensemble, who rehearse over the course of two days and give a concert on Sunday, January 21. OPCICA was founded in 1987 as a way for the instrumental programs in the private colleges to develop a closer network of communication and resource sharing. Muskingum College was one of the founding institutions.

## Senior Recital: Robert Moore

This month, Music Education major Robert Moore presented a beautiful senior voice recital, including works by John Dowland, Gabriel Fauré, Robert Schumann, Harry Burleigh, and more. A tenor, Robert currently studies with Dr. Daniel Strychacz. In addition to his vocal expertise, Robert is a tuba player and performs with the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Wind Ensemble, and Chamber Winds on campus. He is also an active member of Phi Mu Alpha and the Barbershop Harmony Society. He will student teach during the spring semester, with plans to graduate soon thereafter and pursue a career in music education. Congratulations to Robert!



## Alumni Reception at OMEA



Save the date! In conjunction with the annual Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Professional Development Conference in Columbus, the Department of Music and Alumni Office at Muskingum will host an alumni reception on Friday, February 3, from 6:00-8:00 pm at Due Amici in Columbus. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided. Look for an emailed invitation and RSVP soon! Please contact us at [dcrown@muskingum.edu](mailto:dcrown@muskingum.edu) if you don't receive an invitation but would like to attend. We look forward to catching up there!

## Singing Mythbusters!

This month, Dr. Strychacz attended the Muskingum Ohio Collegiate Music Education Association's (OCMEA) chapter meeting to present "Singing Mythbusters with Voice Science!" Our future music educators learned about common vocal myths and healthy ways to work with students. Thanks, Dr. Strychacz, for an informative and entertaining session!



## Contact Us!

Calling all alums! We'd love to hear what you've been up to since leaving Muskingum! Send a brief update to [music@muskingum.edu](mailto:music@muskingum.edu) for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.

## Follow Us!

Be sure to follow us on social media to stay in the loop about everything happening in the department!

Facebook (MuskingumMusic)  
Instagram (Music at Muskingum)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 1

- SEOSO Annual Christmas Concert
- Secret Auditorium (Zanesville), 7:00 pm

Dec 3

- Muskingum University Christmas Festival
- Brown Chapel, 7:00 pm

Dec 9

- December Commencement
- Anne C. Steele Center, 3:30 pm