



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It's been a quiet few weeks on campus as we've all taken time off to rest, relax, recover from the semester, travel, and enjoy time with family and friends. I managed to drive to see my parents, siblings, nieces/nephews, and in-laws in Nebraska and Colorado with only minimal disruptions from the cold and snow! Hopefully all of you also emerged unscathed from the unusual storms across the country. With the start of a new semester, we look forward to the bustle of returning students, the excitement of new classes, and the preparations for a robust slate of spring concerts. We're also looking forward to a range of new initiatives in the department as we constantly work to improve our offerings and best meet the needs of our community. We're deep in the throes of substantial curricular revisions, which will start working their way through the approval process next week. Most of these will take effect in Fall of 2023 (more details to come following these approvals), but we're excited to start these revisions a little early with the inclusion this semester of guitar lessons and ensemble and the shift of Muskie Rocks and String Ensemble to classes, rather than their former existence as clubs. With these changes, we're also excited to welcome music alum, Steve Miller, to the faculty as Instructor of Guitar. Jazz Ensemble also returns for the first time in a few years, directed by saxophonist Frankie Wantuch. Our concert slate for the semester starts in February with performances by the Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra (SEOSO) and the Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds. Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, and Muskie Rocks will present a preview concert at the beginning March before starting out on our first post-pandemic tour to West Virginia and Washington, D.C. We have three senior music majors presenting recitals this semester (all in April): David Hochstetler on percussion, David McDonald on voice, and Sarah Heading on saxophone, while Robert Moore heads out to complete his student teaching before graduating in the spring. We also look forward to the in-person OMEA Professional Development Conference in Columbus in February and hope to see many of you there and at the scheduled alumni reception at Due Amici! As always, we encourage you to keep in touch, let us know what you're up to, and follow us on social media.

With warm regards,

Dr. Erin Bauer
Chair and Associate Professor of Musicology



Scholarship Auditions!

Have you or someone you know already been accepted to Muskingum for the fall semester? Our final two audition dates of the academic year are coming up soon!

We offer scholarships for music majors, music minors, and music participants in voice, brass, woodwinds, percussion, keyboard, and string instruments. These auditions also ensure admittance to the program as a music major or music minor. Students can submit an application and sign up for an audition time on their admission status webpage. A full list of audition requirements can be found on the music department webpage.

The final upcoming audition dates are:

**Saturday,
January 14 &
Monday,
February 20**

(although we're happy to schedule an alternate date or virtual audition, depending on individual circumstances). Don't delay! Time slots fill up quickly, as will available scholarship awards.

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 if you don't receive an invitation but would like to attend. We look forward to catching up at the conference and also at this event!

Christmas Festival

Our annual Christmas Festival in Brown Chapel brought together students, faculty, and professional musicians in a beautiful reflection on the holiday season. We enjoyed traditional lessons and carols, the larger presentation of Ralph Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on Christmas Carols, and a few nontraditional interpretations of holiday standards. Hopefully you were able to attend or to catch the rebroadcast on WMCO 90.7. We're already starting to make plans for next year!



OPCICA Honors Band

Five Muskingum students will participate this month in the Ohio Private College Instrumental Conductors Association (OPCICA) Honors Concert Band at the annual honors festival at Case Western Reserve University. These include: Victoria Vankirk-Hochstetler, contrabass clarinet; Sarah Heading, alto saxophone; Robert Moore, tuba; David Hochstetler, percussion; and Addie Young, percussion. OPCICA was founded in 1987 as a network of communication and resource sharing among the privately-funded instrumental departments, divisions, and conservatories in the state of Ohio. Nominations for the honors band were submitted by institutional conductors and evaluated by the organization. Congratulations to these students!



Pictured: Sarah Heading, Addie Young, Robert Moore, Victoria Vankirk-Hochstetler, and David Hochstetler.

New Faculty!

Steve Miller (Adjunct Professor of Music, Instructor of Guitar) holds a bachelor's degree in Music from Muskingum and is a teacher to over forty private students in the Cleveland and Canton areas. He specializes in teaching rock, jazz, finger style, and theory. Prof. Miller performs around northeast Ohio as a solo musician and has played at a number of venues, including Severance Hall, Musica in Akron, and The Paul Duda Gallery/Robert Hartshorn Studio in Cleveland. He has also performed in various ensembles, including the Cleveland Guitar Orchestra and the Dick Simcox Big Band and for various theatre productions around Ohio. An active community member, he works with EN-RICH-MENT of Stark County, a non-profit dedicated to providing music education and performance opportunities to under-privileged youths.

New Ensembles!

As part of our ongoing curricular revisions, we're excited to offer a number of new performing ensembles this semester. **Muskie Rocks** began last year as an informal pop/rock band under the direction of Dr. Laura Schumann. For the first time, the group will be offered this semester for academic credit. Likewise, **String Ensemble** now provides an additional for-credit outlet for student instrumentalists, also directed by Dr. Schumann. **Jazz Ensemble** has not been offered during the last few years, but is back, now directed by our saxophone instructor, Frankie Wantuch. Finally, our new guitar instructor, Steve Miller, will direct the **Guitar Ensemble**. Like our other offerings, these new ensembles are open to the entire student population and can be joined by simply enrolling in the respective class. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!



Community Outreach

Did you know? We love to get out into the community and work with burgeoning musicians. As you work to get younger students ready for upcoming contests and concerts, please feel free to reach out to the department to request time with faculty or our talented students. We don't have time to accommodate all requests, but will certainly consider what we can! Many of our studio instructors are also available to teach private lessons. Contact us at music@muskingum.edu for more information.

Student Profiles: Class of 2023

As our senior music and music education majors start completing their final requirements for graduation, we want to highlight their accomplishments at Muskingum and look forward to sharing where they'll go from here!



Sarah Heading



David Hochstetler



David McDonald



Robert Moore

Sarah Heading is majoring in Music Education. As a skilled saxophonist and soprano vocalist, Sarah is actively involved in the Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir, as well as the Chamber Singers. She serves as the Band Librarian and is a member of SAI. In addition to her musical pursuits, Sarah is also an artist and enjoys both traditional and digital drawing in her free time. She comes from a musical family – her mother, Caroline Heading, is a collaborative pianist at Muskingum. With her diverse skills and interests, Sarah will be a valuable asset to the teaching profession!

David Hochstetler is a Music major, with a focus on percussion. In addition to playing with the Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, and Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds, David adds a depth and richness to the bass section in Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. In his time at Muskingum, David has proven to be a dedicated and talented musician, participating in a variety of ensembles and consistently performing at a high level. David is married to Muskingum alumni and current Muskingum employee Victoria Vankirk-Hochstetler.

David McDonald is majoring in Music (Vocal) and Theatre. With a strong baritone voice, David is actively involved in the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, as well as the Musical Theatre Ensemble. He is also a member of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity and has performed with the Wind Ensemble. In addition to his musical pursuits, David runs on the cross-country team and works as an International Affairs Student Worker. David is a non-traditional student with a passion for Latin American culture and labor unions. He brings a unique perspective and wealth of experience to his studies and activities.

Robert Moore is majoring in Music Education. With a strong tenor voice and equal proficiency on tuba, Robert is a valuable member of the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and Wind Ensemble. He is also involved in Chamber Winds and the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity. In addition to his involvement on campus, Robert has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for nine years. This dedication to vocal and instrumental performance makes Robert a well-rounded and talented musician. We look forward to watching the positive impact he makes in the field of education!

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 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

SEOSO (Chamber Ensemble Concert):

Sunday, February 5 at 3:30 pm, Brown Chapel

Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds:

Sunday, February 19 at 7:00 pm, Brown Chapel

Band/Choir Tour Launch Concert:

Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 pm, Brown Chapel

Band/Choir Tour:

March 2-6

SEOSO (Children's Concert):

Sunday, March 19 at 3:30 pm, Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center

David Hochstetler Senior Recital:

Saturday, April 1 at 5:00 pm, Brown Chapel

Chamber Ensembles Concert:

Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm, Brown Chapel

David McDonald Senior Recital:

Saturday, April 15 at 7:00 pm, Brown Chapel

Sarah Heading Senior Recital:

Sunday, April 16 at 3:00 pm, Brown Chapel

Musical Theatre Ensemble Performance:

Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm, Brown Chapel

Band/Choir Spring Concert:

Friday, April 21 at 7:00 pm, Brown Chapel

SEOSO (Season Finale):

Sunday, April 23 at 7:00 pm, Brown Chapel

Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds:

Sunday, April 30 at 7:00 pm, Brown Chapel