November 2022



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Hard to believe, but we're only a short month away from the end of this semester! We settled in to the new year in October with classes, concerts, recruitment events, and preparations for the next month, semester, and years to come. We hosted students from John Glenn High School and Cleveland School of the Arts for a mid-week strings festival, with both schools working with clinicians, experiencing our beautiful facilities, and joining forces to perform pieces by Karl Jenkins and Florence Price. The following day, we hosted the Get Hooked on Music event in which prospective music students spoke with current students and faculty, enjoyed a showcase by our Chamber Singers, and performed their own version of John Cage's "Living Room Music." That weekend, we welcomed Dr. Gail Levinsky, professor of saxophone at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, for a masterclass and concert of contemporary works by women composers. Dr. Abeyaratne has been hard at work preparing for his end-of-the-month recital at Carnegie Hall, including a handful of local preview concerts. Our Ohio Collegiate Music Education Association (OCMEA) students welcomed retired music teacher and principal, Susan Climer, to speak about her experiences and advice on teaching in our new, post-COVID world. The Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra (SEOSO), a collaboration between Muskingum students, local "apprentices," music faculty, community members, and professional musicians, presented their first concert of the season, a musical travelogue through Europe, while Muskie Rocks performed at the First Friday Art Walk in Zanesville and Relay for Life on campus. As we move into November, we're looking forward to "concert season," "conference season," the return of YouthFest, finalizing new curricula, and the end of a busy semester. Keep an eye on upcoming events via Yodel or social media; we love to have you on campus! Feel free to stop by or send a note with any updates, questions, or just to chat. Hope you've been enjoying a beautiful fall!

With warm regards,

Dr. Erin Bauer Chair and Associate Professor of Musicology





YouthFest Is Back!

Some 100+ high-school band and choir students from the surrounding area will be arriving on campus on Saturday, November 12, to participate in day-long rehearsals, masterclasses, and workshops with Dr. Turrill, Dr. Strychacz, many of our applied instructors, and our current students. Directors will also attend a workshop and luncheon. The festival will conclude with an honors concert at 5:00 pm in Brown Chapel. We're excited to bring back this event and to host these students!

Muskie Rocks at

Weasel Boy Brewing

Muskingum popular ensemble, Muskie Rocks, will be the featured band at Weasel Boy Brewing in Zanesville on Friday, November 18. Stop by for handcrafted beer and pizza, live music, and support music at Muskingum!

Sabbatical Concerts

As part of his sabbatical work, Dr. Abeyaratne will be presenting his Carnegie Hall program at two November concerts: Texas A&M University in Commerce and West Liberty University in West Virginia. He will also be recording the program with recording engineer Steve Bodner at Muskingum.

New Composition!

For their first concert of the year, entitled "Unidos: Music of Latin America," the Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds (a collaboration of students, faculty, and community members) will join with the Wind Ensemble to premiere Chavez, 1927. This work, written by California-based composer Giovanni Santos, is a tribute to Cesar Chavez's enduring fight for equal rights and humane working conditions that led the way for a nationwide revolution. The piece is a commission from a consortium of over fifty universities and high schools, including Muskingum. Don't miss this concert! Sunday, November 20, at 3:00 pm in Brown Chapel. The performance is free and open to the public, with no tickets

Research Corner

Dr. Bauer's research was published recently in two peer-reviewed journal articles. The first, entitled "Defining Conjunto Quantitatively: Classical and Modernist Styles in a Texas-Mexican Genre" and published in American Music, uses quantitative methods to characterize "classical" and "modernist" styles of Texas-Mexican accordion music. The second, entitled "The Absence of Texas-Mexican Musics at the South by Southwest Festival" and published in the Journal of Popular Music Studies, explores the separation between the mainstream music industry and Tejano musicians. Dr. Bauer will travel to New Orleans in November to give a paper entitled "Performing Disability: Stutter Songs in the Late Twentieth Century" at the joint conference of the American Musicological Society, the Society for Ethnomusicology, and the Society for Music Theory. She will also share this research with students preceding travel to the conference.



Community Outreach

Our students have been busy working with K-12 schools across the region! Music Education major Jackie Bradshaw and Dr. Turrill recently led music activities with K-2 students in the Cambridge Elementary after-school program. They demonstrated the sound of the trumpet, then connected music with visual art by having students draw "scenes" to four different musical examples. They also connected music and movement by having students move to different musical examples that contained different styles, tempos, dynamics. They even stopped the music so students could "freeze"; finally, Jackie led the students in a session of bucket drumming. Jackie and Dr. Turrill also attended the recent OCMEA fall conference at Capital University. The mini-conference included three different one-hour sessions that will be shared at a future OCMEA meeting on campus—Practical Tips for Music Education Majors, Social Emotional Learning in Music, and Diversity in the Music Program.

On October 28, some 83 kindergartners from New Concord Elementary attended a Halloween Musical Mashup in Brown Chapel. Dr. Schumann and our students presented a "spooktacular" show of Halloween-themed vocal and instrumental selections. At least three of our music students, David Hochstetler, Robert Moore, and Addie Young, regularly work with three different area high school marching bands: Ridgeview High School, Meadowbrook High School and Morgan High School, respectively. Robert leads a group of Phi Mu Alpha members with a barbershop group in Cambridge. Addie will also be participating in a Careers in Music Day in the Morgan Local Schools on November 10.

Alumni Updates!

Lew Kelly (1965) sent a lovely personal story about his "Music at Muskingum" experience. Here's an excerpt:

Music has been one of my all-time favorite indulgences. However, early on I knew I would never make it as a mainstream musician. Moreover, I didn't think I should float through life simply doing what I love to do. So, I put music mostly on the back burner when I entered college. However, I got a little reprieve via enrolling in summer school following my junior year. So, the first semester of my senior year, I finally tried out for and was accepted into the regionally renowned Muskingum College A Cappella Choir. I didn't realize what a benchmark experience that was going to be! A passage in one of the choral selections kept coming back to haunt me, again and again, with these words: "I do not regret me all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am." I knew I had a long and difficult road ahead as an aspiring biomedical scientist, so this passage became my mantra — my manifesto ... that I would never shy from nor regret the trouble that might lie between me and my chosen mission.

Jake Burnett (2005) earned a B.A. in Music with a piano concentration. He is currently Director of Admission at Muskingum. He remains involved in music, including serving as worship leader at the Muskingum Valley Vineyard Church in Zanesville.





Nicklaus Hess, D.O. (2008) was a Biology major at Muskingum with Chemistry and Music minors. After graduation, he attended the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his Family Medicine residency in Dayton, OH. He is board certified in Family Medicine and currently practices in Centerville, OH. He is also an Assistant Clinical Professor and Clinical Assistant Dean at OU-HCOM and teaching faculty with the Soin Family Medicine Residency Program in Beavercreek, OH. He will be President of the Ohio Osteopathic Association in 2023. Nicklaus still participates in music, playing first alto saxophone with the Sinclair Community Concert Band and baritone saxophone with the Springboro Wind Symphony. He notes the lasting impact of his experiences with music at Muskingum, including using teaching skills from Dr. Schlacks and Dr. Alesandrini, among others, in his daily life as a medical educator.

Contact Us!

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 • Fall Choral & Band Concert "Kaleidoscope" •Brown Chapel, 7:30 pm Nov 4 • Chamber Ensembles Concert •Brown Chapel, 7:30 pm Nov 10 YouthFest • Muskingum University, Registration at 8:00 am Nov 12 • Musical Theatre Showcase •Brown Chapel, 7:30 pm Nov 17 • Robert Moore, Senior Recital •Brown Chapel, 7:30 pm **Nov 19** Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds Nov 20 •Brown Chapel, 3:00 pm