Mary Bonhag, a junior voice student of Carmen Pelton, enjoyed a successful innovative recital in January at the U-M Museum of Art. The chamber recital was entitled Moving Landscapes in Music, and engaged the audience through diversity of both musical soundscapes and visual landscapes. She chose to experiment with the audience physically, following the music around the museum much like a tour group would follow a guide. Both the music and the paintings came from a diversity of genres and countries. The works included Dowland lute songs, a Monteverdi soprano duet, Bachianas Brasilieras no. 5 with 8 cellos by Villa-Lobos, Schubert’s Der Hirt auf dem Felsen, Gaelic music, Cole Porter, and original music by fellow School of Music student Evan Premo, double bassist. Throughout the evening, both the physical movement and the open dialogue she had with the audience as she introduced each musical piece and painting resulted in not only attentive listeners, but also an environment that encouraged laughter, fun, community, and a new appreciation for the wealth of artwork at the U of M.

Kyla Embrey, a senior in theatre performance, has accepted her first professional acting job. Just after graduation she will travel to Europe for a month and then she’s off to the Heritage Repertory Theatre—run by U-M alumnus Bob Chapel—for nine weeks where she will perform in their productions of South Pacific and Sunday in the Park with George.

Theatre performance major Elizabeth Engle and musical theatre student Ryan Foy spent winter semester 2006 in Sydney, Australia, at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts. The two are the first from U-M to study at NIDA, enrolled in the acting program. Graduates of NIDA have included actors Mel Gibson and Cate Blanchett. The Office of International Programs at U-M is creating more opportunities for study abroad in the performing arts.

Joyelle Fobbs and Andrea Lewis, undergraduate dance students, are collaborating to create a new dance documentary featuring other dancers within the Department of Dance, among them Jennifer Thomas and Helen Bates. The film attempts to create a real picture of dancers from all walks of life. Jeremiah Crank and Joyelle performed a contemporary pas de deux, Once Again, in April for the Lansing Community College spring concert “Rhapsody”, a collaboration with other arts, both visual and performing. Joyelle was also featured as the ballerina in the School of Music production of Jackie O, by composition professor Michael Daugherty, presented at the Power Center in March. Finally, Joyelle was also selected to study this summer in Argentina with prima ballerina Lidia Segni and was recently featured in Ann Arbor Civic Ballet’s fall production.

Ryun Ellen Hwangbo, a junior piano performance major currently studying under Dr. Logan Skelton, was named a winner of the 2006 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) State and East Central Division Young Artist Competition and was one of seven national finalists to compete during the 2006 MTNA National Conference, Austin, TX, held at the end of March.

Wolverines go west! This summer, senior dance major Lizzie Leopold will travel with the Leopold Group, the newly formed Chicago-based modern dance company, to California. The Group has been invited to perform as guests of the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. Leopold will be joined by U-M alumna Libby Allsberry, senior dance majors Melissa Bloch, Leah Ives, Jenna Giorgio, Jordan Newmark, Shannyn Hart, and Christie Jenuwine, junior dance majors Roche Janken and Alexandra Burley, and sophomore dance major Alexander Springer. The Leopold Group will put on a weekend of concerts in early July along with such established dance companies as Robert Moses’ Kin...
and Alex Ketley/Christian Burns’ The Foundry.

Senior dance majors **JORDAN NEWMARK** and **LIZZIE LEOPOLD** were chosen to represent the University of Michigan at the East Central Region’s American College Dance Festival in March. Both seniors presented works to be adjudicated by a panel of professional judges. Newmark performed a solo, *Handmade Heart*, and Leopold presented a group work, *The Last Full Measure*.

At the First International Spiritual Festival & Symposium, sponsored by the National Association of Negro Musicians and held in Detroit last October, soloist competition winners from the School of Music included **RHEA OLIVACCE**, soprano (2nd place collegiate division), and **LORI HICKS**, soprano (1st place adult division), who was also awarded the E. Azalia Hackley Prize for best-all-around soloist. The winners were featured in a gala concert at the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit.

Congratulations to **PAUL SCHOLTEN**, voice student, for winning third prize in the Orpheus National Music Competition for Vocalists, student division.

Three masters voice students of Stephen Lussmann have been chosen to participate in prestigious young artist programs. **SETH CARICO**, bass-baritone, will be at Chautauqua Opera; **NATHAN BRIAN**, baritone, will spend summer 2006 at the Pine Mountain Music Festival; and **DAVID WILSON**, baritone, will join the Fort Worth Opera in September for their year-long young-artist program.

In January, the Department of Theatre and Drama sent eight students to compete in the American College Theatre Festival Region III, held at the Illinois State University in Bloomington. This year’s festival saw over 1800 student participants, including over 270 in the design categories. This was the largest festival in the history of ACTF. Five students from U-M made it to the finals in their respective categories; three won first-place awards and three won honorable mentions. **JANINE WOODS**, a senior, won first place for her scenic design for *Romeo and Juliet*. This is especially significant because this category is almost always won by graduate students. Further, with this win she earned the right to compete in the national competitions in Washington D.C. in April. Sophomore **ELYSE HANDELMAN** won first place for her lighting design for *Oedipus the King*. This is the 10th year in a row that a U-M lighting student has won first-place in this category. **COLIN MILLER**, a junior, won first place in the category of stage management. Honorable mentions went to **ED MORRIS**, a senior, for his scenic design for 1918. **STEPHEN SIERCKS**, a junior, won for his lighting design and for stage management for 1918. **JANINE WOODS** won honorable mention for scenic design for *Oedipus the King*.

Congratulations to the following voice students of John Pierce who competed in the Michigan State NATS competition in Ypsilanti in November: **REBECCA NATHANSON**, a freshman working on her bachelor’s and **KELLEY KIMBALL**, a sophomore, both placed first in their respective divisions; **HEATHER DENNY**, a freshman, placed third in her division. All of these students advanced to the Great Lakes regional auditions which was held in March at Grand Valley State University.

**MINNITA DANIEL-COX**, now pursuing her DMA in voice, working with Caroline Helton, and **RABIHAH DAVIS**, a master’s student in voice studying with Shirley Verett, were selected to receive scholarships by Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit. Minnita was awarded the Josie Etta Daley Scholarship and Rabihah the Deacon & Mrs. Silas Norman Scholarship. In March, both young women sang roles in the stagings of operas by James P. Johnson, reconstructed by Professor James Dapogny, Minnita in *The Dreamy Kid* and Rabihah in *De Organizer*.

**CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS:**