Welcome Dr. Kate Fitzpatrick

Dr. Kate Fitzpatrick joined the Music Education department faculty this fall. In addition to holding BME and MA degrees from The Ohio State University, Dr. Fitzpatrick holds a PhD in music education from Northwestern University, where her dissertation focused on the experiences of inner-city instrumental music teachers in the Chicago Public Schools.

Before coming to Michigan, Dr. Fitzpatrick served as Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of Louisville. While at Louisville, Dr. Fitzpatrick conducted the Symphonic Band, an ensemble composed of undergraduate and graduate music majors who perform standards of the wind band repertoire. She also taught courses in music education, graduate quantitative and qualitative research, and conducting. Dr. Fitzpatrick is an active and prolific researcher, specializing in urban music education, mixed methods research, and music teacher education. Her research has been published in the Journal of Research in Music Education, and she has presented at numerous state and national conferences. She serves as a member of the editorial board of the journal Update: Applications of Research in Music Education. Dr. Fitzpatrick also serves as a frequent clinician and guest conductor with bands across the United States.

An avid supporter of public school music programs, Dr. Fitzpatrick is the former Director of Instrumental Music at Northland High School in Columbus, Ohio, where she spent five years directing the district’s largest band and orchestra program. Dr. Fitzpatrick is the recipient of the 2003 God and Country Award, presented by the Salvation Army and the Brass Band of Columbus for her “outstanding, sensitive leadership of young people.”

Welcome New Students

Undergraduate
Zoe Aqua
Angela Berg
Evan Blanchard
Tyler Clouse
Maureen Conway
Kathryn Graham
Christina Gurne
Ariel Halt

Master of Music

Residential
Andrew Putnam
Allyson Royster
Joseph Verbeke

Summer
James Devoe
Elise Dinwoody
Michael Garvey
Cassie Giordano
Erin Hufford
Diane Plack
Jill Schultz
Neomie Toussaint-Williams
Kent Vandock

Doctoral
Lisa Furman
Greetings from the Chair

As Fall advances and the trees shed their colorful leaves here on North Campus, we are reminded of the natural beauty that surrounds us as we pursue our artistic endeavors as students and faculty. Now at the mid-point of the fall semester, we bring you highlights of the Department’s activities, and updates on faculty and student accomplishments.

A national search last year for a faculty member in secondary instrumental music education resulted in the hiring of Dr. Kate Fitzpatrick, Assistant Professor of Music Education. We extend a special word of welcome to Kate and wish her every success at Michigan.

At the beginning of the semester, we held two meetings to regroup as a community and to welcome new students. It was most gratifying to see the large turn-out at the student-faculty gathering and to feel the energy and enthusiasm of the students about the various projects and plans for the year ahead. During a second meeting which brought together student teachers, cooperating teachers and university supervisors, we celebrated our excellent mentor teachers and discussed ways to make the student teaching semester a meaningful and successful experience for those transitioning from college into full-time teaching positions. This semester there are seven students completing student teaching and in the winter there will be sixteen.

We welcome 18 new undergraduate students into the Department and their names are presented on page one. Three graduate students entered the residential master’s program this fall, two new students, Andy Putnam and Joe Verbeke, and one student who completed part of the program as a summer master’s student, Allyson Royster. Most recently, they taught public school in Wisconsin, Colorado, and California. They join returning students Kate Meier (M.M.) and four doctoral students—John Eros, Lisa Furman, Kristen Pellegrino, and Chad West. All graduate students serve as Graduate Student Instructors in Music Education, Michigan Marching Band, or in the School’s outreach program.

In Summer 2008, we admitted nine applicants into the summer master’s program. The summer program was packed with a variety of workshops in addition to the core music and music education courses—workshops in instrumental and choral conducting, African drumming, web design, teaching percussion instruments, string pedagogy, Kodály pedagogy, improvisation, and special education. We are currently planning for the Summer 2009 session which will take place between June 22 and July 24. Many of the workshops are now offered for Continuing Education Units and will be of special interest to practicing teachers. Please let your colleagues know about these professional opportunities and find updates at the following page on the School’s website:

http://www.music.umich.edu/departments/mused/mmus_summer.htm

During the academic year, we also organize professional development events. This year we planned two residencies with well-known scholars in the profession. Earlier this month, Dr. Michal Mark, Professor Emeritus, Towson University, and Chair of the Alumni Society Board of Directors of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, presented a lecture on American History and Music Education and met with doctoral students during his visit. An invitation was extended to other teacher education institutions and we were delighted to welcome faculty and students from Albion College, Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University, and Michigan State University. Next semester, Dr. Gary McPherson, Zimmerman Professor of Music Education at the University of Illinois, will be in residence in late March-early April (detailed information to follow) and we look forward to hosting him on campus and generating much intellectual dialogue around his presentations.

Every fall semester, faculty and doctoral students from the CIC institutions (Committee on Institutional Cooperation, a consortium of Big Ten universities plus the University of Chicago), convene at one of the schools. This fall the meeting was held at the University of Minnesota and the theme was Reaching Beyond Traditionally Assumed Boundaries, with a focus on the challenges and rewards of interdisciplinary work in the academy. Four UM faculty and two doctoral students attended the symposium and gained much from the dialogue on this important topic and the camaraderie that this meeting makes possible. We were proud to congratulate UM alum Dr. David Myers who was recently appointed to the position of Director of the School of Music at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Myers graduated in 1986 with a Ph.D. in Music Education.

Thank you for your continued support. We encourage you to stay in touch and to update the Music Education Department with your contact information. The support of the greater network of alumni is central to the continued growth of the Department - we build on past achievements as we plan future goals!

Marie McCarthy
Undergraduate News

Music Education Tour 2008
Matt Landry & Ivan Navedo

During the week of April 28, 2008, 12 music education majors from the University of Michigan went on a tour of K-12 schools outside Michigan to see music teaching in places unfamiliar to them. They targeted a broad range of programs. They visited rural Ohio, suburban Chicago and inner-city Chicago, visiting a new school every day where they performed chamber music, taught masterclasses or sectionals, and observed a variety of classes. After spending each day immersed in a school and staying with the families of music students, the UM students traveled to another school, sharing their observations along the way. Ultimately, this trip broadened their notion of what makes a great program and what kinds of teachers young musicians should aspire to be. The trip attendees consisted of eleven undergraduates and one PhD student, Kristen Pellegrino, who conducted a study during the trip. She presented her findings at this year’s CIC conference.

ASTA is alive and well at U of M. We had our first meeting on September 23 with DSO violist Caroline Coade. She presented a session on how to market yourself as a musician. She edited resumes, talked about writing cover letters and how to make a cold call. There was a good showing of both music education and performance students. Another recent ASTA undertaking was running the Michigan ASTA Solo Competition. The event was held at the School on October 18. The day-long event was organized by Dan Long and was a great opportunity for both high school and collegiate competitors. Many ASTA members gave up their entire day to assist and should be congratulated for their great community contribution! We are looking forward to future ASTA events with violinist Gabe Bolkosky and bassist Jonathan Glawe.—Joel Schut

CMENC: Our chapter recently attended the CMENC State Conference put together by U of M’s own Dan Blumenthal, CMENC state representative. Held in East Lansing, 16 U of M undergraduate students participated in the conference. On October 23rd, doctoral student Chad West presented a workshop on jazz.

We are having a joint December meeting with ACDA on Rehearsal Techniques featuring Dan Long. As always, we will be holding fundraisers throughout the semester to benefit our chapter going to the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. Please support CMENC, buy a cookie or two, and as always, everyone is welcome at our meetings! —Caroline Fitzgerald & Jenna Stamper, Co-Presidents.

ACDA: This fall, meetings of the U of M Student Chapter of ACDA are focused on directing choral music outside the public school sphere. The ACDA Chapter was honored to have Bonnie Kidd as guest speaker at the October meeting. She spoke on the topic "Working with Children's Choirs and Voices." The November meeting will feature Kyle Webber from the Chelsea United Methodist Church as the guest speaker to talk about working and directing church choirs of different ages and musical styles. The next meeting will be held at the School of Music, rm. 2026, November 10 at 8:00pm. For the December meeting, ACDA will collaborate with ASTA and CMENC. They will be hosting Dan Long. The meeting topic will be "Rehearsal Techniques." The chapter is planning on attending the National ACDA Convention in Oklahoma City, OK in early March.
Undergraduate News

Perspectives from a Junior Student
Xavier Verna

Toward the closing of my sophomore year I began to think about how I should prepare myself for fieldwork in the upcoming semester. My primary strength is to be courageous and face an unfamiliar group of kids with what I know how to do best. I chose my former middle school in Alexandria, Virginia, Mark Twain Middle School. Thanks to Mr. Michael Hairston, the band director, I was given the opportunity to teach the 8th grade concert band for about 4 to 5 weeks. I learned to plan my classes and keep in mind the goals that I wanted the kids to accomplish individually and as a group.

It was challenging to jump in on the last month of the school year, but I felt like the students adjusted pretty well. In class, we mostly prepared music for their spring concert. It really pushed me to score study and to analyze what the problems might be, mark cueing spots, breathing spots, etc. I realized that I stretched myself to do things I wasn't sure I would be able to do. The other plan that I had was to experiment with warm-ups. Since it was so late in the school year, I was very hesitant to present any new material to the students. They had been warming up on B flat scale at the time so I thought about different types of warm-ups within the B flat scale. I had half of the class start up and octave and the other on the lower octave. I also had the low brass sustain the tonic as the rest of the band played up and down the scale. This is essentially the extent of what I was able to teach the students and I observed that it was a challenge for the students as well as for me.

This experience definitely increases my sense of confidence for my fieldwork during junior year at Airport Carleton. As of now, I am teaching the 6th grade band along with two of my other colleagues. The lesson plans for the 6th grade group are very strict. The main focus is to start getting the students to associate all of the pitches and rhythms that they have been playing from 5th grade with actual notation; basically "read music". Stephanie Christensen, band director at Airport Schools, has given me the opportunity to do tonal patterns, rhythmic patterns, and rote songs with the group. I have had the most success with the rote song I taught, "Clementine". One week I taught them the song without instruments and the next week we had to put it on their instruments. I have had a great time going to Airport and look forward to continuing my fieldwork for the rest of the semester at Saline Public Schools, teaching beginning string instruments.

Graduate News

John Eros will have articles published this fall in Update: Applications of Research in Music Education and Music Education Research International. Along with Dr. Colleen Conway and Ann Marie Stanley, John co-authored a paper that has recently been accepted for publication in the Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education. John is currently finishing his dissertation and will defend in December. He will also continue teaching at Adrian College and Concordia University this year.

Kristen Pellegrino presented a research poster titled "The Role of Music-Making in Becoming a Music Educator: A Case Study of Eleven Pre-service Music Educators on an Educational Journey" at the CIC conference (Big Ten Schools) at the University of Minnesota on Oct. 16, 2008. Her paper "Phillip's Story as a Catalyst for Discussing String Education Curriculum" was accepted for the poster presentation at the ASTA National Conference in Atlanta, March 2009.

Chad West’s article titled “Teaching special learners in band” was published in the fall issue of the Michigan Music Educator.
Dr. Colleen Conway’s fall presentations included: (a) a session on teaching music in higher education at the College Music Society meeting in Atlanta in September; (b) keynote address for the Wisconsin Society for Music Teacher Education in Madison in October; and (c) a session on mentoring at The Midwest Clinic in December. Her new book, co-authored with Choral Director husband, Tom Hodgman, Teaching Music in Higher Education was released by Oxford University Press in November.

Journal publications include: an article on mentoring in the Journal of Research in Music Education; an article on professional development of experienced teachers in the Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education; an article on Collaborative Intergenerational Learning in Choral Music (co-authored with Choral Director husband, Tom Hodgman) in the December Journal of Research in Music Education and an article on summer-MM and academic year MM perceptions of the program co-authored with PhD students John Eros and Ann Marie Stanley in the Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education.

Professor Robert Culver will be conducting the Eastern Kansas Regional Orchestra in Kansas City on December 6th. He has been assisting the development of String Programs in Vicksburg, Oxford and the home schooled community in and around Ann Arbor. Also, he has been asked to present at the ASTA National Conference held in Atlanta in March.

Dr. Kate Fitzpatrick is delighted to be joining the music education faculty at the University of Michigan, and is looking forward to meeting the many alumni who have made the program great. Dr. Fitzpatrick is in frequent demand as a clinician and guest conductor, having recently served as a guest conductor for the University of Louisville Honor Band, the All-West Tennessee Honor Band, and the Sylvania Southview High School Band in Sylvania, Ohio.

This past spring, in Seattle, Washington, she presented a paper at the Ninth International Conference on Cultural Diversity in Music Education, and this coming spring will be presenting a paper at the American Educational Research Association’s conference on conducting mixed methods research. Dr Fitzpatrick was also recently invited to serve on an urban music education panel at the CIC Big Ten Music Educators Conference in Minneapolis where she discussed the preparation of music teachers for urban positions. Please make plans to meet Dr. Fitzpatrick as she presents a session at the annual Michigan Music Educators Conference regarding the connection between theory and practice in urban music teaching.

Dr. Marie McCarthy traveled to Bologna this summer to the biennial conference of the International Society for Music Education where she presented papers and served as Chair of the ISME History Standing Committee. She taught the research methods course in the Summer MM program and hosted an international Ph.D. student from Dublin, Ireland whose doctoral research she serves as advisory supervisor. In November she will present a paper and two workshops at the National Conference of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. Recently she was appointed for a six-year term to the MENC Music Education Research Council.
Dr. Carol Richardson and Dance/Performing Arts Technology Professor Steve Rush were named Teaching Fellows of the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) Program for their work in Mysore, India last summer. They led a group of 14 U of M undergraduates from across the campus on a 4-week sojourn where they all lived in community at Mysore’s Swami Vivekananda Center and studied yoga, dance, mridangam, and Carnatic singing.

The trip culminated in a concert on campus on Sunday, October 5th where they joined forces with the singing students of local guru Vijayalakshmi Janakiriman. Richardson’s ensemble, the Ghana Bronyis, continues to perform both on- and off-campus this year. They started off the semester with an appearance at ArtScapade during New Student Week, continuing their tradition of fundraising through performances. The ensemble currently sends seven Ghanaian girls to school in Cape Coast, Ghana.

Dr. Julie Skadsem continues to be in demand as a Dalcroze clinician in the area. Recent workshops include sessions for the MPulse Summer Camp, Choral Conducting Symposium, Michigan Summer Conference, Suzuki Piano Workshop at Wayne State, EMU’s ACDA Student Chapter, and various classroom presentations. She recently presented choral conducting workshops for Oakland County Schools, and continues her work as adjudicator and clinician for district and state choral and solo/ensemble festivals.

The Women’s Glee Club continues to grow in numbers and musicianship, performing a successful tour around Lake Michigan last spring. Performances in Fowlerville, Grand Rapids, Manistee, and Crystal Falls, were well attended, and the trip ended with some sightseeing and shows in the Chicago area. Skadsem and the WGC look forward to their featured performance at the International Haydn Festival in Vienna, Austria in July, and their upcoming concerts with the Saline Fiddlers in Hill Auditorium on November 22 and the men’s group Measure For Measure in Detroit on December 6, 2008.

In May, Dr. Betty Anne Younker officially assumed the responsibilities of the President’s office for the Michigan Music Educators Association and chaired a for Music Teacher Education retreat in May and the board meeting in September. She is delighted that undergraduate Daniel Blumenthal is one of the CMENC board members. Other association work includes serving as the music education board member for the College Music Society, on the editorial board for Music Education Research International, as the CMS representative on the Society for Music Teacher Education Executive Board, as a board member for International Society for Improvised Music, and beginning work as a Working Group member for the National Association of Schools of Music.

This past summer, Dr. Younker thoroughly enjoyed teaching the History and Philosophy class to the summers only masters students. Travel this fall has included Atlanta, Georgia for the College Music Society meetings where she served on two panels and attended multiple meetings; Evanston, IL for the Society board meetings; Minneapolis, Minnesota for the CIC Big 10 conference meetings; Seattle, Washington for the NASM meetings at which she will be one of two SMTD representatives; and Denver Colorado for the International Society for Improvised Music. Dr. Younker’s most recent publications include a book review in the Philosophy of Music education Review, and an article co-authored with Dr. Pamela Burnard (Cambridge, UK) in the International Journal of Education. In addition, she has reviewed multiple papers for conference presentations and publication, a chapter for a book, and a book manuscript. Locally, Dr. Younker was the featured speaker for the Detroit Association of University of Michigan Women (Detroit Yacht Club) in June and was invited to talk with new Associate Deans on Campus.
Alumni Notes

‘40s

John E. N. Howard (BM, ‘41; MM, ‘42) has been an active supporter of musical endeavors in Southwest Michigan.

‘50s

Janet A. Lee (nee Leisenring) (BM, ’53) is very involved as Minister of Music and Arts at the Hillsdale United Methodist Church, Hillsdale, MI where she has served as a permanent deacon. She directs three choral choirs and three handbell choirs at the church, along with many other duties. Her most interesting project presently is the Hand Chimes Choir at the Addison Senior Center in Addison, MI. working with 12 "very senior" seniors, the oldest is 93. And at the Hillsdale County Senior Services Center Perennial Park the 12 handbell ringers are extremely excited about the new three octaves of handbells, and handchimes that are due to arrive Oct. 31. They were completely funded by the Hillsdale Community Foundation. The two groups will be working toward a concert together in the Spring of 2009, somewhere in the Hillsdale area. In her opinion, "One never really retires from Music Education. At least, no one I know."

Mary Catherine Hutchins Coffey (BM, ’54) and her family moved to St. Clair, Michigan in 1970. Since then she has played the piano for St. Clair High School concerts and musical productions. She has also accompanied and coached students for Solo & Ensemble festivals, college auditions, performances and competitions. She has played for musical productions of the St. Clair Theatre Guild. She recently retired as a church organist after playing for years in several churches. In May of this year she was designated as the honoree of the year at the St. Clair High School honors convocation for her musical endeavors in the community over the years. Currently she is the rehearsal and performance pianist for the St. Clair Theatre Guild production of "The King and I." In early 2009 she will be the rehearsal and performance pianist for the St. Clair High School Theatre Troupe production of "Les Miserables."

Doris E. Anderson (BM, ’56) taught junior high band and instrumental music in Niles, Michigan from 1956 to 1959 and spent a summer at Northwestern University to study with Cecil Leeson. In the fall of 1959 she moved to Berkeley, California to pursue a degree in law. After completing units in non-music subjects she entered the Law School at the University of California in Berkeley and graduated with a J.D. in 1964. She worked as corporate counsel for various corporations including Fibreboard Corporation, Amfac Corporation and Fair, Isaac Corporation until she retired in 1998. Until she reached this advanced age, she was actively engaged in golf and tennis. Now she enjoys good food, music, reading and surfing the internet.

Dr. Charlene Paulin Archibeque (BM, ’57) retired in 2005 after heading up the Choral Music program at San Jose State, but continues to give workshops and clinics, teach conducting and serve as visiting guest lecturer at various universities. She just received the Howard Swan Award from the California ACDA--given at their summer conference at Yosemite where she presented six sessions. She is in the process of revising her website with a new web master and hopes to get it current by Christmas. She received her doctorate from the Univ. of Colorado in 1969. While at the University of Michigan, she was president of the MENC student chapter and arranged and conducted the Junior Girls Play in 1956.

Mary Durden Teal (MM, ’57; Ph.D., ’64) served as Professor Emeritus at the Department of Music, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan. She retired in 2001. She has just finished a biography of her husband, Larry Teal, published by the North American Saxophone Alliance as part of their Biographical Series that honors those persons who have elevated the status of the saxophone and serve as models for the saxophonists who follow them. She is currently working on a volume of writings by Larry Teal, beginning with three years of articles for JACOBS ORCHESTRA MONTHLY written during the years 1938-1941.

Shirley (Lee) Bengston (BM, ’58) is a retired educator in Sun City Center, Florida.

Carl Ray Balduf (MA, ’58) is currently documenting the construction of a $20-million Cable-Stay Pedestrian Bridge for the $200-million Ambassador Bridge Gateway Project in downtown Detroit.
Alumni Notes

The video DVD, being produced for URS Corporation, documents the workers, their tasks and the challenges faced during the 20-month bridge construction process.

‘60s

Margaret (Meg) Worcester Fried­drich (BM, ’60) lives with her hus­band Eddie in beautiful Western Massachusetts in a five-college area at the foothills of the Berkshires. Meg is still very active in music education, teaching flute lessons privately and at Northfield-Mt. Her­mon School. For almost three de­cades, she has been playing in the award-winning Pioneer Valley Symphony (see pvso.org), one of our country’s oldest community orchestras, and one that showcased and honored Michigan’s very own William Bolcom! She also plays in other organizations, including Commonwealth Opera, which is soon to present Madama Butterfly.

Michael L. Mark (MM, ’62) has had his Concise History of American Music Education published by Row­man & Littlefield. Earlier in the year, the third edition of his Source Readings in Music Education History was published by Routledge. His baccalaureate and doctoral degrees are from The Catholic University of America, and in April he will receive that university’s 2009 Alumni Achievement Award. Dr. Mark serves as chair of the Board of Gov­ernors of the Alumni Society of UM’s School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Joyce Sklar (nee Grika) (BM, ’63) went into real estate and has been with Century21 Shoreline, in Skokie, Illinois for the past 10 years. She taught music in the schools, accompanying students at state contests and in recital, and taught private piano in 2 suburban high schools for many years. She continues to teach adults, is in charge of a wonderful Fine Arts Series at Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation, and is playing a lot of great chamber music. Her son is an anesthesiologist, and she and her husband (violinist and retired Or­chestra Director at Niles North H.S.) have 4 grandchildren.

Dr. Earl Sherburn (BM, ’65; MM, ’70) has retired in Las Vegas Ne­vada where he does substitute teaching on occasion. He is work­ing to help activate the U of M Club, LV. He enjoys watching the U of M football games in the fall with fel­low Michigan alumni and always goes back to Ann Arbor for at least one or two football games each year. He enjoys traveling in his retirement and has visited over 40 countries.

Martin E. Obed (BM, ’66) was inducted last March into the Cold­water, Michigan High School Music Hall of Fame, which honors former students, teachers and community members for their contributions to and achievements in mu­sic. Obed taught 32 years at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, retiring in 2002 as Chair of the Hu­manities Department. He currently lives in Kalamazoo with his wife Pamela and is trombonist with Kalamazoo College’s Philharmonia Orchestra and the Kalamazoo Con­cert Band.

Paul Kirby (BM, ’67). Paul’s CD “Four Sonatas” has recently been released by Capstone Records, and is available from his website, notescopemusic.com. It contains “Sonata for Trumpet and Piano,” which was previously released by Capstone (on “New American Trumpet Sonatas”), performed by Rodger Lee and Steven Graff, “Sonata for Piano,” played by Steven Graff, “Sonata for Solo Flute,” played by Erin Lesser, and “Sonata for Bb Soprano Saxophone and Pi­ano,” performed by James Noyes and Yegor Shvetsov. He composed all of these works and supervised the recording sessions. The web­site also has some free sample downloads, so one can get an idea of the type of music he writes (basically classical forms with jazzy harmonies), as well as information on the performers and other music available for purchase. Several generous donors have helped to support this project.

James W. Roach (BM, ’67; MM, ’68) retired in June, after 40 years of teaching, the last 35 in the Kala­mazoo Public Schools. He intends to continue adjudicating for the Michigan School Band and Orches­tra Association (MSBOA) and to conduct orchestra each summer at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp north of Muskegon, Michigan, where he has conducted for the past 27 sum­mers.

Greg Heuer (BM, ’69) joined his colleagues in 2007 in the advanced wood processing industry to found the Woodwork Career Alliance of North America, a 501 (c) (3) corpo­ration for the establishment of woodworking skill standards, evaluations, and credentials. He serves as Secretary of the corpora­tion, and chief content validation editor for the writing and publish­ing of the Skill Standards. At the October 2008 Convention he was elevated to Honorary Life Member.
Alumni Notes

of the Architectural Woodwork Institute.

Richard (Rick) Stannard (BM, ’69; MM, ’72) has taught school, then worked for Baldwin, Gibson and Steinway since graduation. Following this, Rick went into the business world, moving to Australia in 1990 as CEO of a division of Occidental Life, as well CEO of a division of Allianz Insurance. Currently residing in Melbourne, Rick is Chief Operating Officer of The Music Page, an internet based site dedicated to streaming live music performances from anywhere in the world.

‘70s

Richard J. Alder (BM, ’73; MM, ’74) recently retired after 34 years of teaching every possible music assignment in grades K-12, primarily in the Wayne-Westland (MI) Community Schools, and also in the Dexter Community Schools and Van Buren Public Schools. During that time, he was active in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, holding several posts including President of District 12 and Site Chair of the state Solo and Ensemble Festival. A member of the executive board of the UM Band Alumni Association for 33 years, including 21 as secretary-treasurer, he recently was co-organizer of a reunion of the 1971 UM "European Tour" Symphony Band, the last directed by Dr. William D. Revelli. He is currently working on plans for a special 40th reunion of the 1969 UM Marching Band. As a performer, he works extensively in musical theatre in southeast Michigan, including serving as one of the musical directors for the Croswell Opera House, musical director for the Adrian College Theatre Department, and conductor for the Southgate Community Players. Although retired from the public schools, he continues in education, teaching some beginning band classes at Guardian Lutheran Church School in Dearborn.

Clark Chaffee (BM, ’73; IAA Diploma, ’69) will begin a 4 year term as the Vice President in charge of the Orchestra Division for the Illinois Music Educators Association at the January 2009 All State Convention. Chaffee is the head of Orchestra and Guitar at A. E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire II. He has built the program from 35 students when he started in 1997 to 140 string students and over 50 guitar students with a reputation as one of the strongest programs in Illinois. The curricula for both the orchestra and guitar programs have earned national recognition. The Stevenson Music Department was cited in 2006 as one of twelve Model Music Programs in the US by MENC. Chaffee’s teaching career has included 29 years of public school orchestra development and guitar teaching, publication of his Rhythm Workshop and Key Shapes for Strings, earning two national teaching certificates (MENC in 1991, NBPTS in 2004), 12 years as IMEA All State Percussion coordinator, guest conducting, and convention presentations. He has served in faculty positions for the National Guitar Teachers Workshop (MENC), Music Institute of Chicago, Elgin College, McHenry College, and the summer youth orchestra program at University of Illinois. He has also remained active as a conductor and performer. He has conducted opera and numerous musical theater productions, been a member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, and leader/vocalist/drummer in jazz ensembles and big bands. His professional orchestra activities have included 20 years as Principal Timpani in the Elgin Symphony, Principal Timpani in the Chicago Civic Orchestra, and freelance work as percussionist and timpanist. His daughter Sarah is a cello performance major at Cleveland Institute of Music.

Richard F. Grunow (MM,’74; PhD,’80) is Professor of Music Education at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. A leading innovator in beginning instrumental music instruction, Dr. Grunow is an active lecturer and clinician, having presented in over 40 of the United States, and in Canada, Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Japan, and the French West Indies. His research and teaching focus on applications of Music Learning Theory to instrumental music instruction, instrumental and choral score reading, measurement and evaluation, and music literacy. He is principal author of Jump Right In: The Instrumental Series, a comprehensive beginning instrumental method for recorder, woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion.

Robert Petters (PhD, ’74) has retired as head of the North Carolina State University Music Department and now is teaching part time. He teaches “Introduction to Musical Experiences” to first year college and distance education students. He also directs a church choir.

Sharon Foster O’Connor (BM, ‘76) Sharon O’Connor is just beginning her 29th season as flutist with
Alumni Notes

the Pacific Symphony Orchestra in Orange County California, the largest orchestra formed in the United States in the last 40 years, led by another Michigan alum Music Director Carl St.Clair. Sharon also performs regularly with the Opera Pacific Orchestra, also located in Orange County, and visiting ballet companies who come to the Orange County Performing Arts Center to perform. Sharon lives in Irvine, California with her husband, Tom, and their three sons.

Heidi Mayer (BM, ’79) is an independent piano teacher in Park Ridge, Illinois, where she teaches a large studio of students ranging in age from 5 to 58 years old. Her studio features piano and harpsichord instruction, theory, traditional solo recitals, and various ensemble opportunities, including jazz and chamber music performances with professional musicians. She serves on the board of the Illinois State Music Teachers Association, and is an active member of the Chicago Area Music Teachers Association. In demand as a clinician and adjudicator, she continues piano studies with Annie Shertzer, and performs both solo and collaboratively in the Chicago Area. Most recently, she performed the Bach d minor solo and the a minor quadruple harpsichord concerti in Minnesota with a chamber orchestra. She recorded a CD of music by Beethoven, Franck, Chopin, and Poulenc, and is currently preparing for a solo recital in April.

‘80s

Katherine Johnson (nee Courant) (BM, ’80) retired from the University of Michigan after many years of editing journals of literary criticism in Spanish, French and English. She teaches a homeschool choir in Ann Arbor; she teaches piano in her home; she has accompanied and coached singers for several musicals. She is working on Godspell with Chelsea High and writing an index for a literature professor at the University of Michigan. She recently performed with the Jim Rice group—a jazz sextet.

Daniel De Kok (BM, ’82) is now the Director of Bands at Abraham Lincoln HS in northeast Philadelphia. He continues to play with the Southeast Pennsylvania Symphony Orchestra.

Kayla (Karen) Werlin (BM, ’82) is choral director at Longmeadow High School, where her program includes over 200 students and six choral ensembles. Her select choir will tour Costa Rica in April of 2009. Kayla serves as Choral Coordinator for the western district of the Massachusetts Music Educators’ Association, and is past president of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choral Directors’ Association. She is a frequent adjudicator, clinician and guest conductor. This season she will conduct festival choirs in Massachusetts, New York and Vermont. Kayla is the founding director of Mak’hela, the Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts. This 60-voice community chorus specializes in performing sacred and secular music representing the many facets of Jewish tradition. Since 1995, Kayla has been happily married to E. Wayne Abercrombie, Professor Emeritus and retired choral director at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

‘90s

Pamela Robbins (BM, ’92) received her MM from EMU in 2006. Her thesis title is “Developing a musical theater program: A guide for the Music Educator.” Currently, Pamela is in her 17th year of teaching elementary vocal/general music at Brick Elementary in Lincoln Cons. Schools Ypsilanti MI. She is also director of elementary choirs and elementary musical theater productions. She offers advice to future students: Cherish your time at U of M and collect as many materials and lesson plans as you can!

Frederick William Lowe (BM, ’98) recently began duties as the Director of Bands at Loyola University Chicago, where he conducts the Wind Ensemble, the Jazz Band, and coordinates the Loyola University Basketball Pep Band, the Band of Wolves. Lowe earned his Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Michigan, and after graduation was hired as the assistant band director at Lake Zurich (IL) High School, where he directed the concert, symphonic, and marching bands, and taught music theory and electronic music composition. Upon leaving Lake Zurich, he began graduate conducting studies at Northwestern University with primary teacher Dr. Mallory Thomson. At Northwestern, in addition to leading numerous chamber music recitals, Lowe worked with the Contemporary Music Ensemble, the Concert and Symphonic Bands, and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. He also assisted with the "Wildcat" Marching Band and the men’s basketball pep band. In 2002, Lowe traveled to Singapore, where he spent three weeks working as a music clinician in the public
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Gregory Whitmore (BM, ’01) is currently Director of Bands at Cathedral City High School. The Cathedral City High School Bands have just returned from their performance as the featured ensemble in the 2008 California Band Directors Association State Conference. Additionally, the band performance at CBDA was highlighted by a performance with renowned saxophonist Dr. Kenneth Tse from the University of Iowa. The CCHS marching band performed on national television for the second time in three years as a part of the 2007 Pacific Life Holiday Bowl Parade and Bowl Game. The CCHS Symphonic Band was selected as a state level winner in the 2008 Mark of Excellence Wind Band Honors Competition, and the CCHS Band will perform in the Los Angeles International Band and Orchestra Festival in June 2009 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA. The CCHS Band will then depart for an 11 day performance tour of England and Wales. Mr. Whitmore has also been selected for School Band and Orchestra Magazine as the California representative for the 8th edition of the magazine’s “50 Directors Who Make A Difference” feature. Mr. Whitmore has also begun work as an adjunct applied music instructor at the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, California.

Katherine FitzGibbon (MM, ’02) completed a doctorate in conducting at Boston University in Spring 2008, where she wrote a dissertation: Historicism and German Nationalism in the Requiems of Brahms, Reger, and Distler. This fall, she began a new position as Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR. She continues to serve as Head of Faculty at the summertime Berkshire Choral Festival in Sheffield, Massachusetts.

Marla Aviva Bentley (BM, ’03) graduated in Spring 2008 with a Master of Music degree in Vocal Pedagogy from Oakland University. Marla continues to teach private voice students and serves on the faculty of Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, MI where she has recently been named Cantorial Associate. Marla and her husband, Newell, are expecting their first child, due in March. Her website is: www.MarlaBentley.com.

Rob Stow (BM, ’03) has taught for 5 years in Elk Rapids, MI. He recently was published in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association’s newsletter with an article titled, ”Top 20 Things I Wish I’d Known...” and returned to graduate school to pursue a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting at Michigan State University.

Jeremy Nabors (BM, ’04) is in his 5th year of teaching at Chapel Hill High School. This year, he is putting together a district-wide performance of Haydn’s Pauckenmesse. All 13 choirs will come together for this performance of UNC’s Memorial Hall under the baton of our own Dr. Jerry Blackstone.

Fred Peterbark (BM, ’05) was recently hired as the Assistant to the Dean for Recruitment and Outreach at the College of Music at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Fred is balancing this new position while finishing his master’s degree in vocal performance. Fred will graduate May 2009. Additionally, Fred will reproduce "A Tribute to Black Pioneers in Music Performance" in January 2009 at the University of Denver. The concert will include performances by UM alumni Lori Hicks and Darnell Ishmel, along with UM Emeritus Faculty Member, George Shirley. The event is produced under Fred’s new LLC, "Peterbark Productions."

Tristan J. Twyman (BM, ’05) is the newly appointed Program Director, Bessemer City Schools Elementary Bands, Bessemer, AL after spending 3 years as Director of Bands, James A. Davis Middle School, Bessemer, AL. He is currently developing five new band programs and coordinating the activities among the 5th and 6th grade bands across the district.

Daniel Albert (MM, ’05) was formally elected Chairperson of the Western District of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association in May 2008. He began his two year term on July 1. Daniel was also appointed conductor of the Quabbin Valley Music Educators Association (QVMEA) Junior Concert Band. The QVMEA is a consortium of music schools, and also appeared as a guest conductor with the Singapore Festival Winds. He has served as a guest conductor with the McHenry County (IL) Youth Orchestras, has judged several music festivals in the Chicago area, and his work has been published in the GIA Publications series Teaching Music Through Performance in Band. Lowe holds memberships in the College Music Society, College Band Directors National Association, Music Educators National Conference, and Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma.

‘00s

Marla and her husband, Robert, are expecting their first child, due in March. Her website is: www.MarlaBentley.com.
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educators in western and central Massachusetts. Daniel was also awarded a grant, "Band Day 2009," from the Longmeadow Educational Excellence Foundation. "Band Day 2009" features clinics with outstanding musicians and conductors from the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts working with the middle school band students of Longmeadow.

Travis Cook (BM, ’08) is in Chicago pursuing a Masters degree at Roosevelt University, where he studies with Chicago Symphony musicians. He also teaches privately at some of the area schools.

Bryan James Kolk (BM, ’08) is working on a Master’s in Bass Performance at Michigan.

David Tenerelli (BM, ’08) is teaching music to middle school band students in Frisco, TX, a northern suburb of Dallas.

Brittni Troy (BM, ’08) and Scott Devereaux, BM, (tuba performance) ’08 were married on October 10, 2008 in Detroit, MI (picture). They are both students and currently live in Philadelphia. Brittni is pursuing an MBA at Temple University and Scott is working towards an artist certificate at The Curtis Institute of Music.

Jason Smith (MM, ’08) presented and passed his oral examination in July 2008, completing his Master of Music Education at the University of Michigan. He is the director of bands at Skyline High School in Ann Arbor, MI.

Dan Mollick (MM, ’08) completed work in the summer masters program and defended his thesis, "Descriptions of Practice Motivation and Practice Activities Among Beginning String Students" in October, 2008.

Our next newsletter will be in the Spring 2009. Please email Regina Ferguson at rcferg@umich.edu with your latest news. Include your degree and graduation year.