YEAR AT A GLANCE/2015-2016

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Clocks in Motion Percussion Ensemble
10/9
Symphony Orchestra
11/1
Amara Piano Quartet
11/15
Band Extravaganza
12/6
Holiday Choral Festival
9/27
Collage of Choirs
10/4
Wind Ensemble
10/29
Octubaween Tuba Euphonium Ensemble
11/5-7
The Magic Flute
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Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band & Concert Band
11/18
Organists of Iowa
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Statesman
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Iowa State Singers & Cantamus Women’s Choir
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Greetings from the Chair

I am pleased to present to you the fall 2015 edition of The Score. This is our “year in review” for the music area of the Department of Music and Theatre. The stories and pictures contained in this publication capture highlights, events, activities, and accomplishments from our esteemed faculty, talented students, special friends and illustrious alumni.

It is hard to believe that I am entering my 11th year as department chair and 17th year as director of bands. There have certainly been many changes in our department during this time, and although change is constant, it can also revitalize. I am so proud of our robust program and the dynamic students, faculty and staff that bring so much to our department.

A number of new faces have joined our department over the past year, including two tenure-track positions — Christina Svec in Music Education and Jonathan Sharp in Percussion. Both of these individuals are bright, young, dedicated, and very talented. We look forward to having them join our faculty team, and you can learn more about them on page 18.

We have recently received word from the National Association of Schools of Music, our accreditation association, that our membership has been renewed until 2023. We invested a considerable amount of time and energy in creating reports for this organization, and we are a better department for doing so. This accreditation allowed us to evaluate our work and have an independent judgment by peers that ensures we are meeting our educational objectives, association standards, and simply being the best that we can be.

The cover photo was shot by my wife, Mary Beth, while the ISU Wind Ensemble was performing in Rome on May 20 at the Teatro di Marcello — the Marcellus Theatre. As you can tell by this unique photo, this was an incredibly memorable concert — performing at a protected archaeological site that inspired the famous Colosseum! It was a special venue and a great way to begin our trip throughout Europe. In this publication you can read about the travels and successes of many of our student ensembles, faculty and alumni.

You can also read about two very special ladies, both of whom were recognized by the university this past spring semester for their enormous and long-term contributions to Iowa State. Ellen Mollleston Walvoord (page 6) and Deloris Wright (page 14) are both highly successful professionals who have made a huge impact on the success of our program. These extraordinary ladies are special friends of our department, and we are indebted to them for their long-time and very generous support.

I also want to thank our many loyal alumni and dedicated “Friends of Music” who have contributed to our department this year. Many of our successes and programs would not have been possible without your generous and steadfast support. Your gifts continue to have a significant impact on our offerings as they motivate our faculty, staff, and students to achieve the highest levels of musical excellence.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of The Score, and find yourself newly inspired by the accomplishments of our faculty and students. Please visit us at any time — be it live or via one of our many concert webcasts — and share your concerns and suggestions with us.

With gratitude and all best wishes,

Michael Golemo, Chair
Department of Music & Theatre
On February 26 and 27, the 66-member Iowa State Singers sang performances at the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Singers, Iowa State’s most select choir, performed for over 3,000 choral conductors in Abravanel Hall, home of the Salt Lake Symphony, and the Salt Lake Tabernacle, home of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The conference registrants came from throughout the nation and around the world. The choir members were thrilled to receive enthusiastic standing ovations at both venues.

The Singers were one of four collegiate mixed choirs invited to perform at the conference. A national panel of esteemed choral conductors selected the Singers through a blind audition process last summer, hearing representative pieces from the past three years.

"Being asked to perform at the ACDA National Conference is considered the pinnacle achievement for an American choir,” said Dr. James Rodde, ISU’s director of choral activities.

The choir sang a 30-minute program of contemporary music featuring two recently commissioned works, a spiritual by Stacey Gibbs, and a rhythmic setting of Psalm 33 by Hungarian composer Levente Gyöngyösi. The choir also sang the American premiere of a new composition by popular Latvian composer Eriks Ešenvalds. “The Singers committed to the repertoire and enjoyed a very fulfilling experience. It was a once-in-a-lifetime event that we won’t forget,” Rodde said.

"Being asked to perform at the ACDA National Conference is considered the pinnacle achievement for an American choir.”
—Dr. James Rodde
ISU Director of Choral Activities

The Iowa State Singers, with a European tour and a coveted spot to sing at a national convention, celebrate a year of momentous performances.
BIG BANG TO THE PLANETS

IOWA STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLES HOST RENOWNED GUEST ARTISTS

The Jazz Ensembles hosted several noted jazz educators and performers during the spring ’15 term and had opportunities to interact with them in various ways.

Nationally-renowned jazz educator Ron Carter was the first to visit for a February workshop. Carter has worked with many of the greatest names in jazz, including the Jimmy Dorsey Band, the Temptations, and many others.

Next to visit were jazz recording artists Dick Oatts and John Mosca, who are both members of the Village Vanguard Orchestra in New York. Oatts and Mosca performed as guest soloists with the Jazz Ensembles for their April concert. Oatts’ visit was particularly meaningful as he is a native of Iowa who grew up in Des Moines before moving to Minneapolis to begin his professional career in 1972.

THE JAZZ ENSEMBLES HOSTED SEVERAL RENOWNED JAZZ ARTISTS

Music theory and music history joined with stunning visuals of our solar system as a prelude to the Iowa State Orchestra’s performance of Holst’s masterpiece The Planets in November 2014. Music faculty members Julie Sturm and Jacob Harrison, along with recording engineer Chad Jacobsen, reached across the university to collaborate with professor Curtis Struck and the astronomy department in preparing the project.

Under the guidance of Julie Sturm, five music majors — Irma Marcinowski, Eliza Smith, Alice Hinshaw, Sam Hall, and Luke Petta — worked independently to research the seven planets represented in Holst’s composition, finding potential similarities between their topography and the music.

Astronomy students collaborated with the music majors on planetary facts and provided footage of each planet. Jacobsen edited the students’ commentary, musical examples, and visual images into a 30-minute video that suggested fascinating new perspectives on both the music and the planets.

Following the video, Harrison led the orchestra through a performance of Holst’s seven-movement work that brought the audience to an enthusiastic ovation at its conclusion. LAS Dean Beate Schmittmann remarked after the concert that this was exactly the kind of high-level interdisciplinary collaboration that she hoped to continue to see and support at ISU.

OPERATION THEATRE FEATURES EMERITUS PROFESSOR CARL BLEYLE

Emeritus Professor Carl Bleyle returned to campus to appear in the ISU Opera Theatre’s fall production of Puccini’s comic masterpiece Gianni Schicchi. Bleyle brought the role of deceased Florentine aristocrat Buoso Donatello to (after-)life flawlessly.

Bleyle served as the Department of Music’s expert on music history from his appointment in 1962 until his retirement in 2001. He designed the first music history curriculum for the ISU music major sequence when the major was created in 1970. He was also the founder and director of Musica Antiqua, the ISU renaissance performing ensemble, which continues to be featured annually at the Madrigal Dinner, in addition to other concert appearances.

Bleyle performs on period instruments, including the organ, zink, and krummhorn. He is the former director of the Florence study abroad program and continues to direct the Collegiate Methodist Chancel Choir, where he also serves as organist.

Also featured in the production were current ISU undergraduates Ryan Battani, Courtney Kayser, Eliza Smith, Ian Butler, Phillip Sears, Mikayla Somers, Marcus Cross, Braedon Irvine, Joey Leinen, Grant Luther, Jack Daubitz, David Sponder, Taylor Troyer, Angelica Elkema, and Jake Wilding.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR CARL BLEYLE RETURNED TO CAMPUS TO APPEAR IN THE ISU OPERA THEATRE’S FALL PRODUCTION OF PUCCINI’S COMIC MASTERPIECE GIANNI SCHICCHI.

The Planets

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SIMONSON INDUCTED INTO ACADEMY OF TEACHERS

Donald Simonson, Morrill Professor of Music and Theatre at Iowa State University, has been elected to membership in the American Academy of Teachers of Singing. He will be officially inducted in November in New York.

The American Academy of Teachers of Singing was founded in 1922 by a distinguished group of voice teachers concerned for developing the highest standards and most scrupulous ethics for the entire voice teaching profession. Membership in the academy is open only by internal nomination and election. Membership is for life and is limited to 40 individuals. The organization strives for improvement in the professional and for the furtherance of the vocal arts through research, publication, convention presentations, adjudication, and various other activities.

Simonson uses technology in teaching vocal formant tuning and has given invited presentations throughout the world on this topic. He served with distinction as president of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and is a member of the lead group of American voice teachers to join the Royal Conservatory (Toronto) and Carnegie Hall in the Vocal Achievement Program. He teaches voice, voice pedagogy, and vocal literature and conducts musical theater.


L-R: Ian Butler, Phillip Sears, and Braedon Irvine.
Ellen (Molleston) Walvoord was awarded the 2015 Order of the Knoll “Cardinal and Gold” award at Iowa State. This award is presented to an individual or a couple who has provided dedicated and long-term service and creative leadership to the Iowa State University Foundation and Iowa State University through the advancement of philanthropy.

She and her husband Tom were both 1961 graduates of Iowa State, Ellen in home economics and Tom in agriculture. Ellen is now retired from a position as senior vice president of Chicago’s Abbott Laboratories, as is Tom, who was a senior vice president at Northern Trust.

While Ellen was an undergraduate at Iowa State, she served as the rehearsal accompanist for the Iowa State Singers, under the direction of legendary choral director Robert McCowen. From the age of six, she took piano lessons from Ira Schroeder, music department faculty member and ISU’s longest-tenured carillonneur.

“Ellen has done so much for our department,” said Michael Golemo, music department chair. “The Walvoord Endowment Fund has provided exceptional and much-needed support for our program in so many ways. This is an addition to her scholarship fund, which has provided funds to talented music majors for many years. Her generosity and support for music at Iowa State is second to none.”

In addition to supporting music at Iowa State, Ellen and Tom have established the Walvoord Professorship in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and have provided funding for the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication.

“I’m far from an expert, but everything I see gives me confidence in investing in Iowa State,” said Ellen. “It’s well run, it’s efficient, and it’s very healthy. Tom and I want to help ensure that it remains so.”

Besides, Ellen said, “it’s where I learned to play the piano, learned to manage, to lead, where I met my dearest friend, where I met my husband. There comes a time in everyone’s life when you say, ‘This is when I have to give back.’”

—Ellen Walvoord

2015 Order of the Knoll “Cardinal and Gold” award recipient

This year’s event raised more than $20,000 to support music scholarships!
If you have been to an Iowa State concert, master class, dance recital, or theatre production with a guest artist, chances are good that at the bottom of the program there was a statement that read, "This program was made possible with support from the Alvin Edgar Fund for the Performing Arts." This fund has provided funding to bring in dozens of guest artists to perform and teach for music, theatre, and dance at Iowa State.

From 1935 to 1973, Dr. Alvin Edgar served the university in many capacities: head of the department for 13 years, director of bands for 13 years, director of concerts for 25 years, and director of the symphony orchestra for 30 years. He was responsible for the programs that were booked into Stephens Auditorium, and he was directly responsible for booking the New York Philharmonic for a series of five concerts at Stephens Auditorium to open the hall in 1969. When that orchestra returned in 1972 to present a Promenade Concert in Hilton Coliseum in 1972, the program was dedicated to him.

Bill Reinhardt graduated from Iowa State in 1948 in Civil Engineering and performed as a member of the percussion section in the Concert Band and as drum major in the Cyclone Marching Band under Edgar. "As far as living my life and being in a business of my own, I feel I learned more from the band and Alvin Edgar than in any of my courses," Reinhardt said. "He was very detail-oriented and expected attention and for everybody to do their individual jobs to the best of their abilities."

Art Swift, who served as a music faculty member from 1967–1991 and as music department chair from 1972–1991, said Edgar had a warm personality. "He was a happy person and a joy to be with," Swift said. "Any time he had a new idea for the department he'd say, ‘Let's go to lunch — I need to talk to you.' He was simply a good guy.”

The Ames International Orchestra Festival Association (AIOTA), which began in 1969 and continues to this day, was started by Edgar. The mission of the organization is to promote and facilitate live performances of orchestral music and to foster awareness of the value of classical music.

Edgar passed away in 1975 at the age of 72 while representing Iowa State University at a meeting of the Bicentennial Music Committee for the Iowa Arts Council.

The Alvin Edgar Fund exists to continue what Edgar accomplished during his lifetime — bringing world-class musicians to Ames for the benefit of Iowa State students and the Ames community.

"Any time he had a new idea for the department, he’d say, ‘Let’s go to lunch — I need to talk to you.’ He was simply a good guy.”

—Art Swift
Music department chair from 1972–1991

If you would like to honor the legacy of Alvin Edgar by contributing to the Alvin Edgar Fund for the Performing Arts at Iowa State University, please contact the ISU Foundation or the Department of Music for information.
On May 18, 2015, 54 members of the ISU Wind Ensemble departed for an 11-day trip to Europe. Their tour included Rome, Florence, Venice, Salzburg, and Rothenburg, Germany. This was the Wind Ensemble’s sixth trip to Europe since 2003 and their first trip to Italy.

The members of the Wind Ensemble visited many memorable sites, including St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Vatican Museum, the Doge’s Palace in Venice, Mozart’s birthplace in Salzburg, and several guided tours, including a salt mine tour in Salzburg.

The ensemble had concerts in Rome, Florence, and Rothenburg. They performed music of American composers and featured faculty soloists Donald Simonson, Mike Giles, and Sonja Giles.

Their concert in Rome took place at the historic Teatro di Marcello (see cover photo), which was completed in 13 BC. This theatre was the model for the famous Colosseum and is currently an archaeological site in Rome. Following the concert, a reception was held at the ISU College of Design Rome headquarters located nearby. This reception, as well as their concert, was made possible by ISU Rome Program Resident Director Pia Schneider.

In Florence, the Wind Ensemble performed as part of an international music festival at the Santo Stefano Al Ponte Church, which dates back to the year 1116.

Their concert in Rothenburg, Germany, was held in the town square to a large and enthusiastic audience. Following their introduction for this concert, one unknown audience member shouted, “Go Cyclones!”

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime trip,” said student musician Michael Erman. “We were able to see many famous and historical sites along with being able to perform very special concerts in several memorable locations. Being able to share this experience with many student friends is something that I’ll always cherish.”
Above left, Mike Giles performs with the Wind Ensemble at the Santo Stefano Al Ponte Church in Florence.

Above right, Sonja Giles, center, and members of the flute studio at the town square in Rothenburg.

Right, Spencer Larson, Kara Bader, Kimbra Bader, and Erin Malloy overlook the outskirts of Rothenburg after walking the 1.5-mile wall that surrounds the old town.

One of the most photographed spots in the medieval walled town of Rothenburg, Germany, is the Plönlein (“Little Square”).

During his fall visit, Molison heard a rehearsal of a new composition that the Iowa State Singers were preparing, Even When He is Silent, by Norwegian composer Kim Arnesen. Molison was intrigued by the piece, and current choral director James Rodde subsequently asked him to conduct it in concert with the Iowa State Singers at the annual Collage of Choirs concert.

“DOC” MOLISON RETURNS TO AMES FOR COLLAGE OF CHOIRS

To any current or recent ISU music student, “Doc” means just one person — music department chair and Wind Ensemble director Michael Golemo. But he’s not the first music professor to use the nickname.

Former director of choral activities Robert Molison (also known to his students as “Doc” during his years at ISU) returned to campus for dedicatory ceremonies connected to a new scholarship fund bearing his name. The Robert Molison Scholarship in Music fund was created by Molison’s sister, Mary Newton, in honor of his legacy at Iowa State.

During his tenure at Iowa State, the Iowa State Singers gained national distinction for their participation with leading orchestras from around the world in performances at the Ames International Orchestra Festival. Molison’s first performance at ISU was to prepare the Festival Chorus for Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony conducted by Andre Previn with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He also led the Iowa State Singers on three international tours.

Molison retired in 2000 and now lives with his wife, Ann, in Fort Collins, Colorado.

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The Singers had an opportunity to meet and rehearse with Molison prior to the performance. He gave a speech during the performance, recalling memories of his time at Iowa State.

Following the concert, he attended a reception in his honor in the Celebrity Café in Stephens Auditorium, which was hosted by choir alumni. The reception was attended by current students, alumni, faculty, and friends.
The ISU Trumpet Studio, under the direction of Associate Professor James Bovinette, was invited to participate in the 2015 Orvieto Musica Trumpet Festival, held June 21–28, 2015, in Orvieto, Italy. Participants included music majors and student trumpeters Brandon Ritchie, Sarah McEntee, Lucas Yoakam, Amber Yoakam, and Ellen Justis.

Bovinette served on the faculty of this festival, as did trumpet professors from Illinois State University and the University of Evansville. Bovinette performed several solo works at the festival and presented master classes for the participants.

Prior to the festival, the students spent four days in Rome, and following the festival they were able to visit Florence. The students participated in daily rehearsals, clinics, and master classes and performed in three different concerts. As part of the festival they also attended language classes in “survival Italian.”

Throughout the years, Deloris Wright (Ph.D. Economics ’73) has provided funding to support the purchase of numerous specialty instruments for the music department. This past spring, Wright generously donated the funds to allow the purchase of a $34,000, five-octave Schiedmayer celesta — a world-class instrument. In addition to the celesta, Wright has provided financial support for a variety of unique instruments, including a harp, a concert tuba, an alto flute, a bass flute, an artist-quality piccolo, a vibraphone, a set of almglocken (tuned cowbells), and a disklavier piano. Wright has been a longtime and substantial supporter of Iowa State University. She is the president of Wright Economics, Inc., and in addition to the music department, she has supported Parks Library, the colleges of engineering and veterinary medicine, biology programs, and the Carrie Chapman Center for Women and Politics. She was recently awarded the Order of the Knoll “Campanile Award” for her long time and extraordinary support to Iowa State University. Her generosity has impacted many students and faculty, and there are many future students who will benefit from her “instrumental” support.

The celesta gets its name from the French word CELESTE, meaning “HEAVENLY.”

One of the most recognizable uses of the celesta is in Tchaikovsky’s “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.”

While similar in appearance to a PIANO, by pressing a key on a CELESTA, a felt hammer strikes a metal sound plate suspended above a wooden resonator (unlike a piano, where the hammer strikes a string).
FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

JIM BOVINETTE performed as a member of the brass section last August at the Haydn Festspiele in Eisenstadt, Austria. He also collaborated with trumpet colleague Mark Wade in a trumpet duo recital at Bergkirche, Eisenstadt.

MICHAEL GOLEMO is currently serving as president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association. This past year he served as an adjudicator for three weekends in Chicago, and he conducted several honor bands, including the New Mexico All State Band. Golemo served as the host for the 2015 Iowa Band Conductors Forum, which brought over 60 Iowa band directors to the University of Iowa, the campus, including the directors of the band programs at the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and Drake University. In February, Golemo will serve as host for the north central division of the University. In September, his composition "Design for Music & Sound Control Using Virtual Touch with an Interdisciplinary Reach" in the United Kingdom at the Center for Music and Science at Cambridge University and the Center for Digital Music at Queen Mary University of London. Over the summer Hopkins held a fellowship and artist residency with the Hambridge Center for the Creative Arts in Georgia and participated in the Viola West workshop at the California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, developing his skills in performing Renaissance and Baroque music for the viola da gamba. In September, his composition The Mirror of Enigma was performed by the Paezos Ensemble in the Onassis Cultural Center in Athens, Greece, as part of the International Computer Music Conference. Hopkins joined the ensemble to perform the electroacoustic sequences. During the spring, he joined humanities centers directors from across the nation in a meeting with the National Humanities Alliance in Washington, D.C., and organized the Iowa Humanities Festival, a two-day event focusing on the theme of The Elusive Prairie.

MEIHSHUAN HUANG returned to Taiwan in style, giving a sold-out solo piano recital last New Year’s Eve at National Taiwan Concert Hall, a world-class performance venue in Taipei. Huang also gave a master class at one of China’s major provincial universities. The class featured a demonstration of specific techniques for the performance of piano literature by Chopin and Liszt. Huang was inducted into the elite community of Steinway Artists at the November concert of the Amara Piano Quartet. NATALIE (STEELE) ROYSTON assistant professor of music education, has presented at several conferences this past year, including the Iowa Music Educators Association, the Ohio Music Education Association, and the International Mentoring Conference. She also had a recent research article published in the Journal of Music Teacher Education. Royston was the guest conductor for the Five Seasons Middle School Honor Band in May. This summer she presented at the Instrumental Music Teacher Educators Colloquium and the Iowa Choral Director’s Association.

TIN-SHI TAM, University Carillonneur, presented a paper “Bells and Carillons in North America, 1914-1918: the evolution and beyond” at the XVIII World Carillon Congress in Antwerp, Belgium. She also performed carillon recitals in France at Cathédrale Saint-Antonin in Pamiers, Cathédrale Saint-Jean Baptiste in Perpignan, and Collégiale Saint-Michel in Castelnaudary. Other performances were presented at the University of Montana in Missoula, University of Rochester (NY), Alfred University, Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville, Penn State University in Erie, The Mary M. Emery Memorial Carillon in Mariemont (OH), and Berea College (KY). Tam was also a guest artist at the Midwest Regional Carillon Conference at Oakland University in Michigan. In addition, Dr. Tam was awarded Honorary Membership of the Kappa Kappa Psi in 2015. A selection of her carillon arrangements of Scriabin’s music was published by Nederlandse Klokkenkulp-Verenigin. JONATHAN STURM took on new responsibilities this year as Special Advisor to the Interim Dean of the EU Library, which involved leading strategic planning and culture-building initiatives in the library. He was also elected to be the next president of the University Faculty Senate, a position he will assume in two years, following next year as president-elect. He completed his 24th season as concertmaster of the Des Moines Symphony, making him the longest-serving concertmaster in the orchestra’s history, which brought an interview for KCCI TV. Sturm accepted an invitation to become a faculty evaluator for the American Council on Education, which works with the United States military to place veterans appropriately into higher education degrees. He rounded out the year with four master classes, three speeches to students about “Success in Music” and an article entitled “Where do we go from here? A crossroads of cost and content for the arts in higher education,” written for the Journal of Performing Arts Leadership in Higher Education.

In August 2015, bassoonist KEVIN JUDGE traveled to Central America to help coach the National Youth Orchestra of Belize. He was selected to be an educator for this program through an audition for MusAid, a nonprofit organization registered in both the United States and Canada that provides musical institutions in under-resourced parts of the world with music teachers, donated instruments, and materials. Last November, he performed Heitor Villa-Lobos’ bassoon concerto, Ciranda Das Sete Notas, with the Iowa State University Chamber Orchestra. In addition to serving as principal bassoon of the Des Moines Symphony, Judge performed with many orchestras across the state and played in a variety of concerts held at the Des Moines Performing Arts Center.

JODI GOBLE received a university “Early Excellence in Teaching by a Lecturer” award and has also been promoted to Senior Lecturer. She will be serving as the music director for the upcoming fall opera production of Mozart’s The Magic Flute.
NEW FACULTY

JOSH JOHNSON, newly appointed lecturer of music, will be taking over the ISU horn studio from outgoing horn teacher Peter Kortenkamp. In addition to teaching at ISU, Johnson serves on the faculties of Simpson College and the Des Moines Symphony Academy. As a performer, Johnson is a member of the Des Moines, Quad City, Lincoln and Dubuque Symphony Orchestrass. He maintains an active freelance career throughout the Midwest and performs on occasion with the Omaha and South Dakota Symphonies.

In addition to his work in music education and horn performance, Johnson has served as Orchestra Manager of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. That interest and experience with arts administration led him to co-found the nonprofit performing and experience with arts administration led him to co-found the nonprofit performing and education and horn performance, Johnson serves on the faculties of Simpson College and the Des Moines Symphony Academy.

JOSHDUBUQUE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. That interest and experience with arts administration led him to co-found the nonprofit performing and education and horn performance, Johnson serves on the faculties of Simpson College and the Des Moines Symphony Academy.

DR. JONATHAN SHARP is the new Assistant Professor of Percussion where his responsibilities will include teaching applied percussion, directing the percussion ensemble, and teaching percussion methods. Sharp previously taught at Morehead State University (KY), Centre College (KY), and at the University of Kentucky.

Sharp is a highly regarded artist and educator with an extensive and diverse teaching background. He has performed concerts throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia and has performed with a wide variety of ensembles, including the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Simonida Da Camera, Pink Martini, Ute Lemper, and the Bahama Brothers Steel Band. He was also a member of the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps snare line in 2005.

In December 2012, Sharp recorded an album entitled “The Percussion Works of Warren Benson” with the Collective Percussion Group, with whom he is a founding member. He frequently tours schools presenting recitals, workshops, and clinics on topics including electro-acoustic percussion, contemporary marimba, multiple percussion, concert snare drum, and marching percussion. Sharp is a graduate of Morehead State University, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and the University of Kentucky, where he studied with James McCoy.

DR. CHRISTINA VSEC is a new Assistant Professor in Music Education. She will be teaching courses in general music and choral methods. She will also assist with practicum placement and student teachers. Svec received her Ph.D. in Music Education and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from the University of North Texas. She received a Master of Music Education degree from Michigan State University, three levels of certification in Music Learning Theory, and three levels in the Kodaly Method.

At UNI, Svec was the Assistant Director of UNI’s Early Childhood Music Program, supervised student teachers, and taught elementary music methods courses for majors and non-majors.

She has presented at conferences including Texas Music Education Association (TMEA), Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE), National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA), and Mountain Lake Colloquium. Upcoming conference presentations include Texas Choral Directors Association Conference (TCD), the Early Childhood Music and Movement (ECMMA) regional conference, and Organization of American Kodaly Educators conference.

Her research interests include research methodology, research pedagogy, and childhood/early childhood singing voice development and ability. In her spare time, Svec enjoys cooking, reading, coffee shopping, and spending time with friends and family.

KARA BADER (B. Mus. ‘15) is the new band director at Roland Story Middle School. Kara was recently recognized as the ISU School of Education’s Outstanding K–12 Teacher Education Graduate.

SAMANTHA BEEMAN (B. Mus. ‘09) is the new band director at Valley Southwoods Elementary in West Des Moines.

ALEX GIBBS (B. Mus. ‘13) is the new band director at South Hamilton High School.

SARAH HALL (B. Mus. ‘15) will be starting a master’s degree in violin performance at James Madison University (VA).

CARLY HUHNI (B. Mus. ‘06) recently completed her Master of Arts in Music Education with a Kodaly emphasis. She is currently employed by Linn-Mar Schools and teaches K–5 general music at Bowman Woods Elementary in Cedar Rapids.

AARON LOTT (B.Mus. ‘12) completed his first year of the Master of Performance Program in piano accompaniment at the Royal College of Music in London, UK. On completion of his first year at the RCM, he was selected to attend the North Sea Vocal Academy Master Class and intensive performance workshop for singers and accompanists in Nykøbing Sjælland, Denmark, under the coaching of Audrey Hyland and Richard Hetherington.

RACHEL MCCOY (B. Mus. ‘09) and SIMON MCCOY (B. Mus. ‘09) are proud parents of Declan Ronald McCoy, born November 2, 2014, at 1:27 p.m. He was 9 pounds and 20 inches long, and he is already demonstrating a tuba embouchure.

VICTOR MOONEY (B. Mus. ‘14) will be starting a master’s degree in cello performance at the Boston Conservatory, where he will study with Andrew Mark.

TYLER MOOTZ (B. Mus. ‘14) will begin graduate studies in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs at Kent State University (OH), where he will hold a graduate assistantship as an academic adviser and recruiter for the College of the Arts.

DR. CHRISTINA SVEC is the new Assistant Professor of Percussion where his responsibilities will include teaching applied percussion, directing the percussion ensemble, and teaching percussion methods. Sharp previously taught at Morehead State University (KY), Centre College (KY), and at the University of Kentucky.

Sharp is a highly regarded artist and educator with an extensive and diverse teaching background. He has performed concerts throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia and has performed with a wide variety of ensembles, including the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Simonida Da Camera, Pink Martini, Ute Lemper, and the Bahama Brothers Steel Band. He was also a member of the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps snare line in 2005.

In December 2012, Sharp recorded an album entitled “The Percussion Works of Warren Benson” with the Collective Percussion Group, with whom he is a founding member. He frequently tours schools presenting recitals, workshops, and clinics on topics including electro-acoustic percussion, contemporary marimba, multiple percussion, concert snare drum, and marching percussion. Sharp is a graduate of Morehead State University, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and the University of Kentucky, where he studied with James McCoy.

DR. CHRISTINA VSEC is a new Assistant Professor in Music Education. She will be teaching courses in general music and choral methods. She will also assist with practicum placement and student teachers. Svec received her Ph.D. in Music Education and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from the University of North Texas. She received a Master of Music Education degree from Michigan State University, three levels of certification in Music Learning Theory, and three levels in the Kodaly Method.

At UNI, Svec was the Assistant Director of UNI’s Early Childhood Music Program, supervised student teachers, and taught elementary music methods courses for majors and non-majors.

She has presented at conferences including Texas Music Education Association (TMEA), Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE), National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA), and Mountain Lake Colloquium. Upcoming conference presentations include Texas Choral Directors Association Conference (TCD), the Early Childhood Music and Movement (ECMMA) regional conference, and Organization of American Kodaly Educators conference.

Her research interests include research methodology, research pedagogy, and childhood/early childhood singing voice development and ability. In her spare time, Svec enjoys cooking, reading, coffee shopping, and spending time with friends and family.
Thank you to all who have contributed this past year. We are indebted to you for your generous support.

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