



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts

School of Visual and Performing Arts



Manuscript

The magazine of the Northeastern State University
Department of Music
2021-2022

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Welcome FROM THE CHAIR

We had a fantastic academic year in the Department of Music at NSU. Of course, emerging from the pandemic with a return to somewhat normal activities hasn't been easy. However, we are optimistically on our way to a bright future for this department.

I come to you in this introduction for the last time as Chair of the Department of Music. After six years in this position, I have decided to return to a faculty teaching role at NSU and to pursue other interests. I count myself fortunate for the opportunity to serve our students and faculty/staff in this leadership position during these six years.

Dr. Christian Bester will take over the responsibilities as Chair and I know he will bring great new ideas, and a fresh approach. I encourage you to stay "plugged-in" with any communication coming from Dr. Bester and welcome him into his new role.

This academic year has brought many exciting events, guest artists, and developments. I hope you will read on in this issue to join us in celebrating a mere sampling of these accomplishments and find reasons to continue supporting this wonderful Department of Music.

Jeffrey B. Wall

Guest Artists

Dr. Brian Walker is Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX. **Dr. Brad Baker** is Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano at Tarleton State University. Both presented and held a masterclass with NSU music students in September 2021.



Composer and Conductor, **Dr. Christopher Harris**, joined the choirs in October 2021 to clinic some of his compositions that the choirs were performing. He also workshopped with Music Theory, General Conducting class, and spoke at a roundtable discussion. Dr. Harris is Director of Choral Activities at Arkansas Tech University.

Dr. Rex Richardson is Professor of Trumpet and Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is hailed in classical circles as “among the very best trumpet soloists in the world today,” (Journal of the ITG, 2011) and “One of the finest virtuosos of our time” (Brass Herald, 2018). He was one of our Instrumental Festival Guest Artists for the NSU Chamber Music Series in February 2022.



Dr. Rachel Woolf is Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Texas at San Antonio. An avid champion of contemporary music, Dr. Woolf has been a founding member of multiple new music groups in Ann Arbor and Los Angeles and has premiered numerous new works for flute and piccolo, including Paul Schoenfield’s Psychobird (A Sonatina for Piccolo and Piano). She was one of our Instrumental Festival Guest Artists for the NSU Chamber Music Series in February 2022.



Dr. Karsten Longhurst serves as Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva. He joined the choirs in February 2022 to clinic and workshop University Singers, University/Community Chorus, and Advanced Choral Conducting classes.

Dr. Elvia Puccinelli is Associate Professor of Music and Coordinator of Collaborative Piano at the University of North Texas College of Music. Elvia has appeared in song and chamber music recitals at venues from Los Angeles to New York City, and throughout Europe at such diverse performance events as the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Chamber Concert Series, Placido Domingo's Operalia Competition, the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the National Opera Association Competition, and at NOA and NATS national conventions. Dr. Puccinelli was Vocal Festival Guest Artist for the NSU Chamber Music Series in February 2022.



Mr. Sean Jones is a musical chameleon, comfortable in any musical setting no matter the role or genre. After a six-month stint with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Wynton Marsalis offered him a permanent position as lead trumpeter of the ensemble, a post he held from 2004 until 2010. In 2015, Mr. Jones was tapped to become a member of the SFJAZZ Collective. During this time, he has managed to keep a core group of talented musicians together under his leadership, forming the foundation for groups that have produced and released eight recordings on Mack Avenue Records. Mr. Jones was one of many guest artists to join the jazz & commercial music division for the 55th annual Green Country Jazz Festival.

Mrs. Cynthia Simmons-Taylor has been featured in several festivals such as the International Jazz Fest, Big Bands, Big Voices: The Concert!, The Chet Baker Festival, The Rose Festival, and the PostOak Wine and Jazz Festival just to name a few. Cynthia has connected with the Tulsa jazz community and over the years, has become one of the more recognized and popular jazz vocalists in the area. She performed with the Jazz Ensemble in late April.



Band Area Leadership



NSU was glad to have **Dr. J. Mark Whitfield** as Visiting Assistant Professor of Bands for the Spring 2022 semester.

He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Trombone Performance and Pedagogy from The University of Southern Mississippi, Master of Music in Trombone Performance from The University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and Bachelor of Music in Music Education from The University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Mark is a Yamaha Performing Artist, and is proud to perform exclusively on Greg Black Mouthpieces.

While only here at NSU for a short time, he led the bands to great success in concert and spirit. We wish him well in his new position back in his home state of North Carolina.

NSU bands will welcome **Dr. Joseph Bello** as Visiting Assistant Professor of Bands and Low Brass in Fall 2022. He comes with a wealth of knowledge in education and experience in professional music beginning in 1998 as an enlisted member of the U.S. Air Force and earning a coveted position in the U.S. Air Force Concert Band, Washington D.C. Upon retirement from U.S. Air Force in 2014 as principal euphonium, he began his music education by earning his Bachelor of Music degree at George Mason University in euphonium performance, then completing his Master of Music degree at George Mason University in conducting with Anthony Maiello. Recently, he completed his Doctor of Musical Arts at Northwestern University under the mentorship of Dr. Mallory Thompson.



NSU Opera Workshop's Coffee Perk

Under the direction of Associate Professor of Music, **Dr. Whitney Myers**, the NSU Opera Workshop presented an innovative musical theater program titled "NSU Coffee Perk" - A Jukebox Musical.

Students assisted by creating scenes, dialogue, and assembling musical numbers to create an exciting and entertaining performance on November 19, 2021.



55TH ANNUAL GREEN COUNTRY

JAZZ FEST

FEATURING: SEAN JONES & THE NSU JAZZ ENSEMBLE

MARCH 7 & 8, 2022

JUDGES JAM

MONDAY | 8 P.M.

NSU JAZZ LAB

55TH ANNUAL
GREEN COUNTRY
JAZZ FESTIVAL

TUESDAY | 9 A.M. - 7 P.M.

CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS

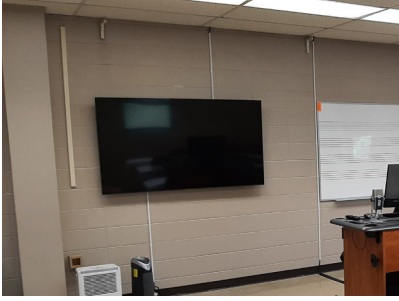
FOR MORE
INFO, CALL:
918-444-4602
OR VISIT:
NSUJAZZLAB.COM



The **55th Annual Green Country Jazz Festival** was a tour de force with performances by influential jazz artists at the Judges' Jam, juried secondary school jazz band competition, and a killer main performance with the NSU Jazz Ensemble. Artists included: Pat Bianchi, Lewis Nash, Nick Mancini, Sean Jones, Michael Dease, Jim Pisano, Dave Bowen, Dean DeMerritt, Robert Ginsburg, and Jeff Sloan.

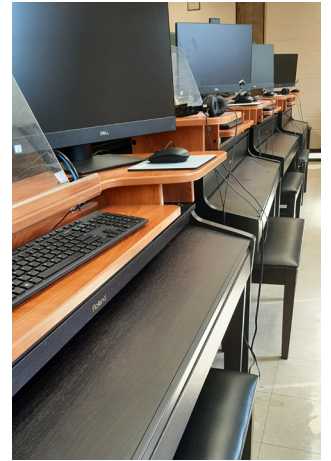


Updates and Upgrades



Many classrooms were updated with LCD TV screens for better instructional delivery prior to fall semester.

The Piano Lab digital piano inventory was updated with 2 new pianos and another to come in the coming academic year.



The NSU Jazz lab was completely rewired through the ceiling thanks to Dr. Clark Gibson and the Music Production lab was up and running with its first courses this year.

Thanks to Nick Mancini and Majestic for donating these carbon-fiber print Artist Series vibes to the NSU Jazz Studies division!



The Fall Semester in Photos



The Spring Semester in Photos



Student News

Fall semester Student Degree Recitals

Logan Edwards - multi-instrument
Morgan Foshee - percussion
Andrew Pearson - trumpet
DeNario Shoates - horn

Fall Junior Standing Earned

Parker McElwain - trumpet
Micah Rodriguez - string bass
Mikah Spyres - horn

Texhoma National Association of Teachers of Singing Vocal Competition

Savanna Boudreaux - 1st yr women semifinalist
Maida Escobar - 1st yr women semifinalist
Megan Jacobs - 3rd yr women semifinalist
Lissie Franklin - 4th yr women semifinalist

Fall Graduates

Andrew Djahedian - BA Jazz Studies
Logan Blunt - BA Musical Arts
Maxwell Sellars - BA of Music Ed



Spring semester Student Degree Recitals

Parker McElwain - trumpet
Jackson Washburn - trumpet
Logan Edwards - clarinet
Clinton Beeler - saxophone

Spring Junior Standing Earned

Phillip Foster - percussion
Charles (David) Veith - percussion
Andy Willis - voice

Spring Graduates

Jackson Washburn - BA Jazz Studies
DeNario Shoates - BA of Music Ed



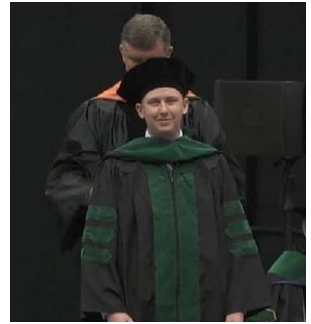
Alumni Feature

Tiffany McGrew (BME 2005) recently earned the Masters of Music Education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



Austin Stunkard (BA Jazz 2015) was recently named graduate teaching assistant for jazz trumpet at the University of Kentucky.

Doug Owen (BA Musical Arts 2017) recently earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the University of Pikeville in Kentucky.



Trevor Downey (BME 2018) was named Percussion Instructor/Assistant Middle School Director for the Broken Arrow Public Schools.

Chris Peters (BA Jazz 2018) earned the Masters of Music in Jazz Studies from the University of Northern Colorado.



Jeric Davison (BME 2019) earned the Master of Music from Oklahoma State University.

Caleb Cline (BA Performance 2018) was recently named Lynn Wood Elementary Teacher of the Year in Broken Arrow Public Schools.



Kaitlyn Ryan (BME 2020) was appointed as Elementary Music Teacher at Woodlands Elementary in Ponca City, OK.

Joshua Bowling (BME 2020) was appointed as Elementary Music Teacher at Lone Star Elementary in Sapulpa, OK

Lacey (Franklin) Reyes-Sosi (BME 2020) was appointed as Vocal Music Teacher for Jay Public Schools

Myklind Reyes-Sosi (BME 2020) was appointed as Vocal Music Teacher at Pryor Middle School in Pryor, OK.

Kelli Martin (BME 2020) was appointed as Band Director/Music Teacher at Noel Elementary School in Missouri.

LeRoicia Penney (BA Music Business 2020) is working on staff at the Tulsa Ballet.

Skye Lawrence (BME 2021) was hired as music teacher at Pershing Elementary in Muskogee.



Jace Davison (BME 2021) was appointed as Assistant Band Director for Broken Arrow High School.



Brennan Marcotte (BA Musical Arts 2021) was appointed as Band Director for Inola Public Schools.



Timoty Caputo (BA Performance 2021) was appointed on staff with the band program at Inola Public Schools.

Maxwell Sellars (BME 2021) was recently accepted into the Graduate School and School of Music at the University of Oklahoma to pursue a Master of Music Education degree.



DeNario Shoates (BME 2022) was appointed as Assistant Director of Bands at Wagoner High School.



We want to know where you are and celebrate YOUR SUCCESS!

If you have news to share, please contact us here:
<https://academics.nsuok.edu/music/Alumni.aspx>
or email Dr. Bester at bester@nsuok.edu

Faculty News

Our faculty are very active in their respective fields. Below, you will find a snapshot sampling of some of these activities and scholarship.



Dr. Christian Bester presented lecture recitals for Doctors in Performance - Tallinn, Estonia; University of Wisconsin Whitewater, and Austin Peay State University. He also performed as a recitalist in many programs and venues including Deep Ellum Music Festival in Dallas, TX, A Night on Broadway in Tulsa, OK, and as a Tulsa Opera Filstrup Resident Artist. He continued his work as Artistic Director with Voces Intimae, a North Texas non-profit dedicated to revitalizing and promoting art song in the region. As an adjudicator, he participated with the Missouri State High School Activities Association for solo & ensemble contest, the National Association of Teachers of Singing Oklahoma chapter, and the Lewisville Lake Symphony Voice Competition. He published 3 articles with the NATS Journal of Singing on Afrikaans Arts Song Literature and "A Bushmen Myth Song Cycle by Niel van der Watt: Giving Voice to Indigenous People."



Dr. Ron Chioldi continued his work as co-author of the group piano textbook for college and universities titled, *Keyboard Musicianship*, Book 2, 11th ed. with Stipes Publishing. He adjudicated the Missouri State High School Activities Association for piano solo contest. Dr. Chioldi has also been active releasing digital performance content of both classical and popular genres.



Dr. Clark Gibson served as clinician for the Oklahoma Jazz Educators/Oklahoma Bandmasters Association All-Star Jazz Band. He was named the Oklahoma Jazz Collegiate Educator of the year. He is a very active gigging jazz performer and plays frequently at Oklahoma Jazz in Bloom in OKC, in Nashville at Rudy's Jazz Room, at Low Down & Guthrie Green in Tulsa, at the Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville, AR, the St. Petersburg Jazz Festival in Florida, and at Dazzle in Denver (to name a few). He recently accepted a full-time position at The Nash in Phoenix, AZ as Director of Education. He will be missed at NSU.



Dr. Benjamin Hay performed widely in recital with Zen Brass, as principal trumpet with the Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra, and the Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College. He performed with the national tour of Mannheim Steamroller in Tulsa and coordinated NSU Trumpet Ensemble outreach concerts at Tahlequah, Checotah, and Wagoner High Schools. He was actively engaged in campus and organizational activities, arranging performances for Veteran's Day assemblies, and Commencement ceremonies. He presented at the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors National Conference in Texas and was awarded the NSU President's Ambassador Network Grant to attend the International Trumpet Guild Conference. Dr. Hay also performs with the Starlight Concert Band.



Dr. James Lindroth was recently added to the Grover Pro Percussion Artist Roster. He presented at the Percussive Arts Society International Conference in Indianapolis and a clinic at the Central States Judges Association conference. Dr. Lindroth published several articles in the *Kansas Music Review*, and in the journal titled *Rhythm Scene*. He adjudicated at the Claremore Solo & Ensemble Festival and performed with the River City Players for a recording session in May.



Dr. Whitney Myers was very active as a performer this year. She sang the role of Chrysothemis in *Elektra* for a virtual production in Berlin. She performed many performances for the Tulsa Opera as a Filstrup Resident Artist. She sang a preview concert for Tulsa Opera's production of "Puccini and Verdi Play Ball" at Trinity Methodist in Tulsa. Dr. Myers also performed the roles of Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* with the Utah Vocal Arts Academy and First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* for Music on Site. She sang the National Anthem for the Tulsa Drillers minor league baseball team.



Dr. Jeffery Wall continued his work as Artistic Director and conductor of the professional-level chamber choir, Vox Solaris in the Tulsa area. He served as Interest Session Chair for the Southwestern American Choral Directors Association conference in Little Rock, AR. He then transitioned into his role as Conference Chair for planning the next SWACDA conference in Denver, CO. He presented at the Oklahoma Music Educators Association Fall conference on programming. Dr. Wall served as clinician and conductor for the All-Broken Arrow Honor Choir and as visiting artist at Arkansas Tech University. He adjudicated at the Jenks Middle School solo & ensemble contest and for the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association Large Group Performance contest.



Dr. Anne Watson had a review of her trio's CD, "Destiny," published in *The Clarinet*, a quarterly magazine published by the International Clarinet Association. Watson is also currently the bass clarinet contributor for *Finger Fitness Études*, bks. 1 (fall 2020) & 2 (fall, 2021). She was also selected to be one of the graders/raters for the Advanced Placement (AP) Exam in Music Theory and was chosen as Academic Affairs Fellow at NSU. Dr. Watson stepped in to lead the RiverHawk Marching Band for a time between band directors. She coached low clarinet sectionals for the Oklahoma Music Educators Association All-State Band. She presented at the All-Star Band Festival with over 600 students and 22 schools from the region. Dr. Watson performed frequently with the Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College and the Tulsa Symphony.



Dr. Mark Whitfield was named a Yamaha Performing Artist. He participated in the University of Southern Mississippi Trombone Day. Dr. Whitfield played at First United Methodist Church in Tulsa and led a clinic at Tahlequah High School. He has been very active with new arrangements and performing content for digital release on a regular basis.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

NSU Music Support

Gifts to support the music program through the NSU Foundation play an important role in the lives of our music students. Whether for the Music Scholarship Fund or for music programming, your investment, regardless of the amount, will help our music program remain strong and vital. Please make out your check to the NSU Foundation, marked for the Music Scholarship Fund or music programming and send it to: Dr. Christian Bester, Department of Music, 605 N. Grand Avenue, Tahlequah, OK 74464. Thank you.

Endowed Music Funds

Dr. Lowell "Chief" Lehman Endowed Fund
Dr. Mark S. Bighley Music Scholarship
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Thelma Parker Memorial Scholarship
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Dr. William J. Rauch Band Scholarship
Clare M. Stroup & Thomas E. Stroup Memorial Scholarship
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2021-2022 NSU Music Contributors

Reflected below are donations January 2021 – March 2022.

Please let us know if we have accidentally left off a donor or placed someone in the wrong category.

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	Valerie Brown	\$100–249	Evans
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