

Music Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2016

A Message from the Editor

E-Mail: MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net

Web: <http://www.MusicAlumni.net>

We understand “alumni” broadly: whether you received your degree from (Southwest) Texas State as a music major, whether you studied here for one semester, or whether you were a non-music major but participated in band, choir, or any other ensemble – you are a Music Alumnus!

We invite everyone to submit their updates and stories to us for inclusion in the newsletter. For easy communica-

tion, please join our [Facebook Group](#) or send us an e-mail so we can add you to our e-mail distribution list.

We also invite our alumni to stay informed about new and exciting events in the School of Music by reading its newsletter *Somos Músicos* at somosmusicos.wp.txstate.edu.

This Fall 2016 issue of our Music Alumni Newsletter contains several pictures taken at the 2016 TMEA Reception, news from many fellow alumni, and alumni activities at Texas State.

*Ms. Sunnie Oh (M.M. in Music, '02), Editor
In collaboration with Prof. Charles Hurt and Dr. Nico Schüler*

Impressions from the 2016 TMEA Reception



E-Mail & Internet Links:

Texas State Music Alumni E-Mail: MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net • Texas State’s School of Music: <http://www.music.txstate.edu/>
Texas State Music Alumni Website: <http://www.MusicAlumni.net> • Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/46231268458>

Thank you, Mr. Covey!



Bob R. Covey (B.M. in music education, '69) made a \$50,000 planned gift to the Choral Program at Texas State for scholarships. *Thank you, Mr. Covey!* He is retired after 35 years at American Alloy Steel as VP Sales. He is involved in many volunteer activities, is a Past President of the Texas State Alumni Association and a present member of the College of Education Alumni Advisory Board.

Mr. Covey conducting the Texas State Chorale for the “Hallelujah” chorus from Händel’s *Messiah* at Chorale’s December 2015 concert.

Congratulations, Recent Music Education Graduates!

Vocal Music Education Graduates:

Jenna Crowell – Teacher, Junior High Theatre, Sweeny ISD, Sweeny, TX
Andre Jackson – Choir Director, Clark County School, Las Vegas, NV
Bridget Perez – Private voice studio, Austin, TX
Daniel Perez – Choir Director, Harlingen ISD, Harlingen, TX
Shawn Wilson – Professional performing / private voice studio, California

Instrumental Music Education Graduates:

Jacqueline Castillo – Assistant Band Director, Neff Middle School, Northside ISD, San Antonio, TX
Kyle Day – Band Director, New Braunfels 9th Grade Center, New Braunfels ISD, New Braunfels, TX
Rebecca De Luna – Assistant Orchestra Director, Jackson Technology Center Middle School, Garland ISD, Garland, TX
Joseph Espinoza – Assistant Band Director, John Jay HS, Northside ISD, San Antonio, TX
Lindsey Franz – Music Teacher, Madden Elementary School, Fort Bend ISD, Richmond, TX
Diana Gonzalez – Assistant Band Director, Salvador Garcia Middle School, United ISD, Laredo, TX
Mauricio Gonzalez – Music Teacher, Smithville Elementary School, Smithville ISD, Smithville, Texas
John Hernandez – Assistant Band Director at Folks MS and Mariachi Director at Sul Ross MS, Northside ISD, San Antonio, TX
Jackson Hisatake – Assistant Band Director, Burnet Middle School, Austin ISD, Austin, TX
Dawn Iglesias – Graduate School, Miami University, Ohio, Oboe Performance
Ashley Jeffries – Graduate School, Michigan State University, Oboe Performance
Luisa Lopez – Music Teacher, Highland Lakes Elementary School, Marble Falls ISD, Marble Falls, TX
Austin Maldonado – Assistant Band Director, Johnson HS, North East ISD, San Antonio, TX
Josue Martinez – Graduate School, Texas State University and West Ridge Middle School as a consultant or full time employee
Louie Pereira – Assistant Band Director, Roosevelt HS, North East ISD, San Antonio, TX

A Note from Eliud Garcia (B.M. in trombone performance, '15)

I enrolled as a M.M. student at Yale University after completing my degree at Texas State, spring of 2015. I am about to begin my second year at Yale! This past summer I did a number of things: first, I did a tour with the Yale Wind Band, where we performed at many cities like Rome, Bologna, and Urbino in Italy. Then we headed to Greece for more concerts in Delphi and Athens. While in Athens, we played at the Elaionas Refugee Camp, which was an amazing experience.



During the same summer of 2016, I also attended the Collegium Musicum in Pommersfelden, Germany Music Festival, which is in fact the second oldest music festival in Europe. During my one-month stay in Pommersfelden, the students of the orchestra lived in a historical landmark castle built in 1711 (Schloss Weißenstein; see the picture) in the Bavarian area, southern Germany. Works by Beethoven, Wagner, Schumann, Mahler, Dvorak, Mozart, Berg, to name a few, were programmed during the festival. I also performed solo and in chamber music.

During my stay in New Haven, Connecticut, I have had the opportunity to perform in Carnegie Hall in New York and was listed as a substitute bass trombone for the Eastern Connecticut Symphony.

I miss all the faculty and friends left behind at Texas State. Hope to see you soon!

Alumni Information & News

Andres Avila (B.M. in music education with emphasis in jazz, '15) is stationed with the US Army / Europe Band and Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany. He married **Valerie Cowan** (M.M. in flute performance, '14) in 2015.

Anna Janine Bartsch (B.M. in music education, '08) works for Petco in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Lorelei Batislaong (B.M. in music education '02, M.M. in music education '06) was recently accepted to the Ph.D. program in Music and Human Learning at the University of Texas at Austin.

Irina Duran (B.M. in music education, '08) is a general music education teacher at Woodlawn Hills Elementary in San Antonio, Texas, within SAISD, but is currently looking to move into middle school band. She is blessed with a wonderful husband Roger and 3 healthy and happy children, Jayden (4), Conner (2) and Caydence (1).

Carla Johnson Graham (B.M. in music education, '74) is the First Vice President and a Wealth Management Advisor of The Graham Group (Merrill Lynch Wealth Management) in Austin, Texas.

Amy Hatch (Dixon) (B.A. in music, '11; M.M. in music theory, '13) began her Ph.D. in music theory at LSU in 2014 and recently transferred to UNT to complete her degree. She is an active member of SMT and plans to attend the national conference in Vancouver to work as a graduate volunteer. Her interests include theory pedagogy, Russian music theory, music psychology, and transformation theory. She married Jonathan "Arizona" Hatch in 2012.

Hilary Janysek (B.M. in music education, '11) has completed an M.M. in flute performance at Ball State University and continues there working towards a D.A. degree in flute performance and entrepreneurial music. She was a TA in the music education area while working on her Master's and now is a TA in the music history area. In her first semester at Ball State, she won the Graduate Concerto Competition, performing the Gordeli Concerto with the BSU orchestra. This past summer, Hilary was a representative for Ball State's entrepreneurship program on full tuition to the week-long seminar "The Savvy Arts Venture Challenge" at the University of South Carolina – an experiential workshop on entrepreneurship for musicians, performing artists and educators.

Veronica Kokas (B.M. in voice performance, '16) was accepted for graduate study at Westminster Choir College at

Rider University with a large scholarship offer, Mannes School of Music at the New School with a larger scholarship, and at George Mason University with an annually renewable scholarship of \$10,000. She is now attending George Mason University and studying with Professor Patricia Miller.

Celeste Morales (B.M. in voice performance, '16) was accepted for graduate study at Boston University, the University of Houston, DePaul University with substantial scholarship offers and at the Manhattan School of Music with an annually renewable scholarship of \$32,000. She will be attending the Manhattan School of Music and studying with Professor Ruth Golden.

Ramon Parker (B.M. in music education, '07) received the master of music degree in conducting from Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, Louisiana) in 2012. He has taught band in Texas at Brazosport High School, Tatum High School, and Rogers High School. He is currently a band director at Winona High School.

Sol Rupp (B.M. in music education, '15) is currently Assistant Band Director at Southside High School in San Antonio, Texas.

Michael Schatz (B.M. in sound recording technology, '15) is currently working as a Live Sound Engineer for the New Braunfels based Alternative Rock Band, The Knowhow.

Danielle Stevens (B.M. in flute performance, '14) completed an M.M. in flute performance at the University of Cincinnati – College Conservatory of Music in May of 2016 and is currently starting her D.M.A. at University of Illinois in flute performance, where she received a doctoral fellowship. This past summer she was chosen through a national audition to participate in a masterclass for orchestral excerpts at the National Flute Association Convention in San Diego. Included in this session was a mock audition in which she placed second. She was also chosen to perform a twenty-minute segment of a recital of flute and voice repertoire, which she performed with her sister, Jacque, also a recipient of an M.M. degree from CCM in vocal performance.

Andrew Thornell (B.M. in sound recording technology, '14) is an Audio Visual Technician at J&S Audio Visual, Inc. in San Antonio, Texas.

Jeremiah Ward (B.M. in music education, '13) is the Assistant Band Director at Fredericksburg Middle School.



Alumni Band Day December 3rd, 2016

All alumni who were a part of the Bobcat Marching Band are invited to the 4th Annual Bobcat Alumni Marching Band (BAMB) Day! This year the event will take place on the final home game of the season, December 3rd, when the Bobcats take on Arkansas State. Come out for a spirited, social, loud time with the Bobcat Marching Band once again!

Keep an eye on the Texas State Bands website, www.txstate.edu/bands/ and on the Facebook pages for Texas State University Bands and Texas State University Music Alumni for details about the schedule, registration and cost.

Let's make it the biggest yet! (Hey, it won't be 100 degrees!)



Alumni
Band
2015

Texas State Clarinet Fiesta 2017

Join us for the TEXAS STATE CLARINET FIESTA 2017, a musical event in the beautiful campus of Texas State University this coming February. This weekend-long clarinet joy in the "Heart of Texas" will create great opportunities for clarinet players to learn from some of the leading clarinetists from around the world. Clarinetists will have access to all of the master classes, clinics, concerts and exhibits.



Clarinetists will have access to all of the master classes, clinics, concerts and exhibits.

All participants will have a chance to win a brand new Buffet Crampon R13 clarinet. The winner of the new clarinet will receive the instrument at the closing ceremony of the event. In addition, the case of the clarinet will be personally signed by all of the International Guest Artists / Professors.

Among the participants the team will select a number of talented clarinetists who will join the Texas State Clarinet Choir for a Sunday 1pm performance with the International Guest Artists.

The Texas State Clarinet FIESTA is NOT a COMPETITION. It is a WEEKEND LONG CLARINET FUN! IT IS OPEN TO ALL LEVELS AND AGES! For more information please visit our website: <http://www.clarinetfiesta.com>.



Texas State Faculty Offer 1:1 Match for Donations



Dr. Kwak with current students and recent graduates

A Note From Alumna Sunnie Oh (M.M. in Music, '15):

"I just found out that Texas State University's School of Music is in the process of establishing a keyboard scholarship endowment. I just made my first donation for it. The scholarships will benefit pianists, including those who accompany other students. Thus, this scholarship fund will benefit the entire School of Music. Several faculty, among them Dr. Jason Kwak (Coordinator of the Piano Area), have pledged to match all alumni contributions 1:1. For example, for a donation of \$10, one of the faculty will donate another \$10; for a \$100 donation, a faculty will donate \$100; etc. To donate, use the form at <https://donate.txstate.edu> and click on 'Search for a designation not listed' to do a keyword search for 'Keyboard'. Chose the 'SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE KEYBOARD AREA IN THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC'. No amount is too small or too large! Future Texas State music students will thank you!"



A Note from Syra Beth Totty Puett (B.M. in music education, '62)

I was a 1962 graduate of SWTSC with a degree in Music Education. I taught elementary music off and on for more than forty years, in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Germany. I also substituted in the subject in New Mexico, Louisiana, and Kentucky. I served as choir director and paid soloist in churches and military chapels across the country. I have resided in Tacoma, Washington for the last thirty-five years. I retired from teaching in 2006. I currently serve on the board of directors of the Lakewood Playhouse, a natural progression in my life after having appeared in about seventy plays and musicals in the area. I am currently working with a local director on a one-woman show.

Texas State's School of Music Welcomes String Quartet in Residence

Texas State's School of Music welcomes the Attacca Quartet (<http://attaccaquartet.com>) as its inaugural Ensemble-in-Residence for the 2016-2017 season. The quartet will present concerts on November 8 and April 4 in Texas State's Performing Arts Center on the San Marcos campus. They will also rehearse and perform side by side with Texas State students for a chamber orchestra concert April 8, 2017. (Tickets can be purchased via <http://txstatepresents.com>.) During both the November and April residencies, they will coach student quartets, work with student composers writing for their instruments, and meet with children in the community-outreach program Texas State String Project.

The Attacca Quartet has established a reputation as one of America's premier young performing ensembles. Their list of accomplishments includes the First Prize at the 7th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition in 2011, and many other awards. Formed at The Juilliard School in 2003, the Attacca Quartet consists of Amy Schroeder and Keiko Tokunaga (violin), Nathan Schram (viola), and Andrew Yee (cello).



Remembering . . .

Anton J. Bek (1908-1990), former music faculty at Southwest Texas State University

Ira Bowles (1916-2000), former Director of Choral Activities at Southwest Texas State University

Ralph Harrell (1918-2007), former Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Southwest Texas State University

John Malcolm Hoffman (1957-2002), received a B.M. in music education, '80, and an M.S. in computer science, '85

Martha Reynolds (1928-2005), former music faculty at Southwest Texas State University

James Sudduth (1940-1997), former Director of Bands, Southwest Texas State University

Melanie Wilkinson (1972-2009), received an M.M. in Music, '99.

3rd Annual Texas State Alumni Choir

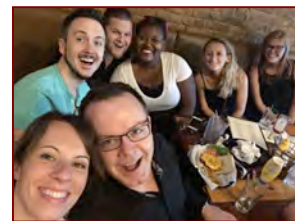


The Singing Bobcat Alums gathered for their 3rd Annual Texas State / SWT Alumni Choir this last summer. After rehearsing on Saturday, July 16, 2016, nearly 80 alums offered a stunning performance in the Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre on Sunday afternoon, July 17. The members of the Texas State Choral Faculty were joined by three outstanding alumni who represented the generations of Bobcats: Ms. Dianne Brumley ('75), Director Emeritus of Choral Studies, the University of Texas-Brownville; Virginia Volpe ('97), Associate Professor, Austin Community College-Northridge Campus; and Christian de la Cruz ('11), Assistant Director at Ronald Reagan HS in



San Antonio & Associate Director of Music, First Protestant Church, New Braunfels. Current Texas State faculty who conducted included Mr. Craig Aamot, Dr. Lynn Brinckmeyer, Dr. Jonathan Babcock, and Dr. Joey M. Martin.

During the weekend of singing and celebration, the Bobcat Choral Pride Scholarship program was announced. Through the generous support of our alumni we reached our initial goal. Now the second stage can begin. Stop by the new Choral website and join us, see how busy your choral family is, and if you feel like joining in support, click that "Donate" button. Most importantly, though, make plans for the 4th Annual Alumni Choir. Go BOBCATS!



World Premiere of a New Opera at Texas State

On April 28, 2016, Texas State hosted the world premiere of a new opera: *Lady Bird: First Lady of the Land*. Written by composer Henry Mollicone and librettist Sheldon Harnick, the opera was commissioned by Texas State Opera Theater, made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The premiere was attended by Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson's daughter Luci Johnson, who was moved afterward to call the entire cast to the stage and speaking at length about the opera's effect on her and her hope that the message of the

opera resonates throughout the country.

Mr. Mollicone and Mr. Harnick were in residence for two weeks prior to the performance, giving lectures, providing master classes and participating in informal conversations with students from opera, composition, playwriting, and musical theater. During their residence, Mr. Harnick, already a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner, received word that he would be the 2016 recipient of a special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement.

The Opera has recently been named a semi-finalist for the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music. Future performances will include the New York premiere in Spring of 2017.

A Note from Tom Cervenka (B.S. in music education, '68)

My name is Tom Cervenka, and I graduated from Southwest Texas State College in May 1968 with a B.S. in Music Education. I sang in the choir and played trombone in the band and I was on a voice scholarship. I also sang in several musicals of the Music Department. I was also a member of Phi Mu Alpha. My highlight of my time at Southwest Texas State was being able to sing in the opera chorus in San Antonio in February 1968, when I sang in the Opera *Don Carlo*, which was presented for the first time in the USA with all 5 acts. Only the first 4 acts were performed prior to that time. It was fantastic singing with all of the Metropolitan Opera stars of that time. The lead tenor was Andre Turp from Covent Garden, and it sent chills up my spine to hear him come over the top of us when we are all singing at the top of our voices. President Lyndon Johnson and his wife Ladybird attended one of our performances. President Johnson was an Alumni also of Southwest Texas State College. Even though I was a voice major, I still enjoyed my trombone and played in the Missouri National Guard Band for 2 years in Springfield, MO from 1973 to 1975 and also played trombone in various church orchestras. I still like to sing, but at 73, my voice is not the same.



Army Specialist Valerie Avila . . .

. . . (M.M. in flute performance, '14) prepares to perform François Borne's *Carmen Fantasie Brillante* for flute and wind band with the US Army Europe Band & Chorus, under the direction of Major Dwayne Milburn. She will premiere this work on October 3rd at the Fruchthalle in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and round out the Fall concert series on October 28th at the Rokokotheater in Schwetzingen, Germany. Her husband, Specialist **Andres Avila** (B.M. in music education, '15) is Principal Saxophone of the band. (Photo by First Sergeant **Larry Dean**, student of Jack Laumer.)



2017 TMEA Annual Alumni Reception

Texas State University's School of Music will hosts its annual reception at the TMEA Convention on Friday, February 10, 2017, from 9:30pm to 11:30pm at the Rivercenter Marriott in San Antonio.

Additional Pictures from the 2016 TMEA Reception



Want to Help?

Would you like to help current and future students at Texas State University? You can

- Give us feedback as we revise our curricula
- Become a mentor
- Establish an endowment
- Contribute to a scholarship fund
- Etc.

For more information, contact MusicAlumni@MusicAlumni.net

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