

Music Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2018

A Message from the Editor

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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 communication,

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 2018 issue of our Music Alumni Newsletter contains several pictures taken on the 2018 Alumni Open House, the 2018 Choral Day, the 2018 Alumni Band Day, news from fellow alumni, and other news.

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

A Message from the Director

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I continue to admire the many wonderful things all of you do as musicians and teachers. It is always nice to bump into TXST musical alumni as they contribute to their community. A recent example on a family trip was dropping in for worship at First United Methodist Church of Harlingen. The contemporary service was enhanced beautifully by the musicianship of alumni



Tracy Roberts and Erin Kelleher Roberts. There are so many ways as musicians we make the world a better. I am proud of all of you for what you do in your life after Texas State!

*School of Music Director
Dr. Thomas Clark*



Mark Your Calendars

(1) Texas State University’s School of Music will host its annual reception at the TMEA Convention on Friday, February 15, 2019, from 9:30pm to 11:30pm in Conference Rooms 17-18 of the Rivercenter Marriott in San Antonio.

(2) Texas State University’s School of Music will host its Third Annual Music Alumni Open House on Saturday, March 30, 2019, from 9:00am to 12:00noon in the Texas State Music Building Lobby.

Picture from the 2018 Alumni Open House



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>

Alumni News

Dr. Sara McCallum Addams (B.M. '06) is starting her second year as the adjunct professor of bassoon and double reed methods at Texas Wesleyan University in Ft. Worth, Texas. She is also the bassoon private lesson instructor for Coppell ISD, where all 40 students playing bassoon in the district are enrolled in private lessons. She will be presenting a clinic at TMEA in February, entitled "How to grow bassoonist from the ground up."

Elizabeth Allison (formerly **O'Connell**; B.M. '14) is the Assistant Band Director at Brabham Middle School in Willis ISD (north of Houston). In 2017-18, she received Sweepstakes at UIL with her Symphonic Band. "I teach all beginner Woodwinds, including Oboe and Bassoon, Symphonic and Concert Bands, and I assist with the Honor Band. Over the summer I got married and changed my name from O'Connell to Allison. I want to say thank you to all of the Professors and Educators at Texas State for preparing me and guiding me through my career. Eat 'Em Up Cats!"

Patrick Atkins (B.M. '06) was assistant director of bands at Steele High School in Schertz, Texas. Currently band director at La Vernia High School.

Jonah Bahta (M.M. '14) has been appointed as an adjunct instructor of music at St. Phillip's College.

Blake Bartosh (B.M. '17) is a Music Specialist at Doss Elementary in Austin, Texas.

Jennifer Bridges (B.M. '03) is a music teacher for Goliad ISD.

Gene Centeno (B.M. '07) toured extensively with Grupo Fantasma. Gene is a freelance musician, was band director at Hernandez Middle School in Round Rock, Texas, and currently band director at Jefferson High School in Austin, Texas. He married his wife, Caroline, in 2015.

Anna Janine (Bartsch) Childers (B.M. '08) works for Petco in Houston, TX.

Tyler Clark (B.M. '17) is pursuing an M.M. in Performance at Baylor University.

Texas State alumnus **Luca Giuseppe Cubisino** (M.M. '14) has completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Miami Frost School of Music.

Kevin Dugat (B.M. '13) was appointed Instructor of Brass at Schreiner University. He will continue his duties as Coordinator of Bands at SU.

Brent Ferguson is currently in his third year as a Ph.D. student in music theory at the University of Kansas. He has also been teaching both classical guitar and composition at Washburn University in Topeka, KS. Last year, he presented joint research with another graduate music student from Texas State at the American Musicological Society meeting in Rochester, at a graduate conference in Minneapolis, and at an industry conference in NYC. He also performed as a guest soloist with the KU choirs for their Vespers program and at SWACDA.

Eliud Garcia (B.M. '15) was a featured soloist with the Collegium Musicum Orchestra in Germany, where he performed the Vaughan Williams Tuba Concerto on bass trombone.



Gilbert Garza (B.M. '14) received an M.M. degree in Performance from UT Austin in 2016. He is pursuing a D.M.A. at the University of Iowa.

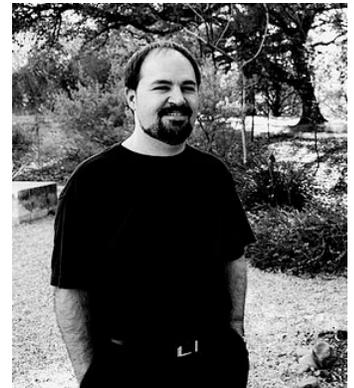
Dr. Jose Garza (M.M. '14) presented the research paper "What Dwells Beneath the Surface: Rhythm, Meter, Culture, and Meaning in Contemporary Metal Music", which featured his dissertation research. He earned his Ph.D. in Music Theory from Florida State University in December 2017 and is now a Lecturer of Music Theory at Texas State.

Emily Gazeley (B.M. '17) is currently Assistant Band Director at Taylor ISD.

Music alumni **Hanna Gray** and **Jett Walker** got married in March 2018. Jett is now a graduate student at Texas State, and Hanna teaches at Boerne Middle School North in Boerne ISD as the assistant band director.



Richard D. Hall (M.M. '03) was sound editor, sound designer, and music composer for the short video-dance film *The Wall*, which was chosen to be screened in the very first "Dance on Film" component of Austin Dance Festival 2018. The film was produced, filmed and edited by Texas State Dance Professor Ana Baer, conceived and directed by Michelle Nance and Ana Baer and featured dancer Nance. *The Wall* has been previously shown at the Miami Epic Film Festival, the Cine Club Sandwich Film Festival in Puebla, Mexico, and the AM Egypt Film Festival in Cairo, Egypt.



John Henrick (B.M. '18) is currently pursuing M.M. Jazz Studies at Texas State University.

Ricky Ray Hernandez (B.M. '15) is saxophonist with the band Jumbofunk. He is currently a music teacher for Edgewood ISD.

Rodney Howell (B.M.) is a freelance musician, private studio instructor, and music consultant for Killeen ISD.

Marty Lenard (B.M. '10; M.M. '12) received the M.M. degree in music education from Texas State University in 2012. He married wife, Halya, in 2009 and taught band at Hal Peterson Middle School in Kerrville, Texas. He is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Schreiner University and a Board Member for Kerrville ISD.

Niki Lopez (B.M. '17) is elementary Music Teacher for Comal ISD.

Mark Mallow (B.M. '18) is Assistant Band Director at Judson ISD.

Joe Martinez (B.M. '03) was teaching band at Garcia Middle School in Laredo. He received the Master of Music in education from Sam Houston State University in 2010 and is currently working for United Independent ISD in Laredo.

Michael Martinez (M.M. '17) recently won the 1st prize in the American Trombone Workshop's National Tenor Trombone Solo Competition in the 3rd division. Martinez is a second-year DMA student at the Eastman School of Music.

Misty Martinez (Grenier) (B.M. '07) taught elementary music at Bluebonnet Elementary and currently teaches choir in Lockhart, Texas.

José Antonio Guerrero Ortiz (M.M. '13) is the CEO and Founder of a new international classical guitar magazine, *Memoirs Classical Guitar Magazine*. After graduating with a Master of Music degree from Texas State, he continued his musical studies while living in Izmir, Turkey, for two years. He returned to the United States and lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Josue Mora (B.M. '14) received an M.M. degree in Woodwinds at Indiana University. He is the Band Director at Doris Miller Middle School in San Marcos.

Miguel Olivares (B.M. '11) worked as a professional musician on the Holland America Cruise Line, traveling to Alaska, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, and other Southern Pacific islands. He is currently freelancing in Austin.

The Philadelphia Orchestra under the leadership of Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin presented the European premiere of *Resilience* for organ and orchestra by American composer and Texas State music alumnus **Dr. Wayne Oquin** (B.M. '99) as part of its historic tour of Europe and Israel this past May. Acclaimed organist Paul Jacobs, for whom the piece was written, was the featured soloist. Dr. Oquin is the chair of the Ear Training Department at The Juilliard School.



Ramon Parker (B.M. '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, Rogers High School, and Winona High School. He is currently the Director of Bands at La Grange ISD.

Juan Jose Rangel Jr. (B.M. in jazz studies, '12) is currently a music teacher in Bastrop, Texas.

Camden Scarborough (B.M. '17) recently won a position with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He is a 2nd year M.M.-Performance student at Northwestern University.

Michael Schatz (B.M. '15) is currently working as a Live Sound Engineer for the New Braunfels based Alternative rock band The Knowhow. He is also freelancing in audio mastering, live sound mixing, sound recording, and video production.

Whitney Self played clarinet in the marching band from 1995 to 1997 and then switched to trumpet for the 1998-2000 seasons. "I am currently an elementary physical education teacher for Hays CISD. This is my 19th year teaching. I've taught middle school, high school, and worked at central office."

Amanda Marino Stevenson (B.M. '07) is currently assistant director of bands at Taft High School in San Antonio, Texas, and brass staff for Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps in Caspar, Wyoming.

Amy Torres (Zuniga) (B.M. '10, M.M. '12) received the master of music degree in Latin American music performance from Texas State University in 2012. She teaches music at Govalle Elementary School in San Antonio. Amy married Mike Torres and recently had their second child.

Michelle Vekasy (B.A. '14) is a graduate student in Music Theory and Composition with a minor cognate in jazz saxophone performance at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS. She also races mountain bikes as a professional athlete in the MORCS circuit.

Steven Vogel (B.M. '15) has been appointed Assistant Professor of Trombone and Euphonium at Texas Lutheran University, where he will begin teaching Spring 2019. He was recently appointed as 2nd trombone for the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Weston Wyble (B.M. '03) is studying Counseling Psychology at Our Lady of the Lake University.

Congrats, Manuel San Luis (B.M.E. '83)!

Manuel San Luis (B.M.E. '83) retired after a very successful career as a band director for 34 years – the last 22 years in Leander Independent School District and Cedar Park Middle School. In 2014, the band program was selected as the Texas Bandmasters Association "Exemplary Middle School Band Program" for the entire state of Texas. The band was also a National Winner in the Mark of Excellence band competition every year from 2008 through 2016. Manuel is now an active band clinician throughout the state and nation, and a busy adjudicator as well. His focus during retirement is to help the younger band directors and to reach out to rural programs where resources are scarce. Thank You and Congratulations!!



Impressions from the 2018 Choir Day



Pictures from the 2018 Alumni Band



Aaron Mata (B.M., '18)



Alison Bryce (B.M., '17)



Armando Martinez (B.M., '07)



Brian Tiemann (B.M., '02)



Tom Waggoner, Director of the BMB 1981-87



Cathy Benford (B.M., '99)



Cutter Gonzalez (B.M., '17)



Denise Trevino (B.M., '15)



Echoe Burckhart (B.M., '18)



Elizabeth Herrmann (B.M., '16)



Heidi Schott Neidig (B.M., '15)



Jonathan Hatch (B.M., '13)



Kaitlyn Douthit (B.M., '12)



Ken Kleid (B.M., '79)



Mary Collins (B.M., '17)



Nathan Tropiano (B.M., '17)



Samantha Majcher (B.M., '14)



Victor Leija (B.M., '08)

The 2018 Alumni Open House (March 24, 2018)



Texas State Faculty Offer 1:1 Match for Donations

A Note From Alumna Sunnie Oh (M.M. in Music, '02):



Dr. Kwak with current students and recent graduates

“Texas State University’s School of Music is in the process of establishing a keyboard scholarship endowment. My husband and I are donating \$50 per month to this endowment. 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!”

Bands to Celebrate 100-Year History by Jennifer Gutierrez

Three hundred and sixty-five days go by and it is a year. Ten of those years pass and it is a decade. Ten decades pass and the overwhelming feeling of a hundred years passing by is a century filled with rich memories and evolution. The upcoming year, 2019-2020, the Bobcat Bands are planning many events to celebrate the Bands’ hundredth anniversary.

Dr. John Fleming, the Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, asked Dr. Kevin Mooney to write a decade-by-decade history of the music program at Texas State. “I’m proud to be a Bobcat, and, being associated with the School of Music, am honored to have been asked to document its history,” Dr. Kevin Mooney said. While researching, Dr. Mooney has found details that contrast to the modern-day marching band of about 350 students. “The Bobcat Band enjoys a reputation for exciting half-time performances and exhibits an impressive force on the field. This is quite in contrast to its early days,” Dr. Mooney said. “Dr. Robert A. Tampke was the first faculty director of the band, as the band was student-directed prior to his arrival in 1923. He recalled in a 1978 interview that when they first played as a college band (there were ten or twelve [students] in the band at the time), they were stopped at

the gate when they arrived at the field and asked to pay admission.”

“One interesting thing that I discovered was that among the first seventeen faculty members when the doors first opened to students of that first fall class in 1903 was a music teacher, Miss Mary Stuart Butler. Butler Hall here on campus was named after her. She was primarily a voice teacher, but she taught every college student, since at least one music course was required for all students.”



Southwest Texas State University Band, early 1980s, under the Direction of Tom Waggoner

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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