



# Delaware State University Music Department

**Volume 1: Issue 1**

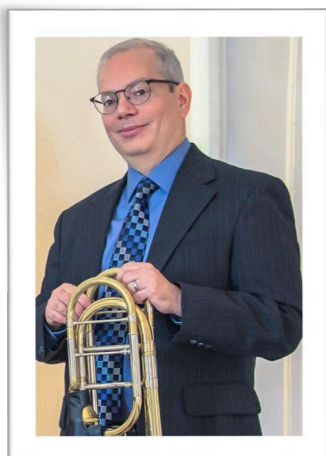
**Fall 2017**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first edition of the Delaware State University Music Program newsletter. It is an exciting time to be part of the music program at Delaware State University! Our students are performing on and off campus, from Delaware to China, Germany, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. We continue to add courses that keep us on the cutting edge of musical academics and our faculty is representing Delaware State at an international level.

This edition includes some recent program highlights and news from our students, alumni, and faculty. If you would like to share your news with our musical community or get on our mailing list, you will find contact information on the last page. Enjoy!

Dr. Frank Gazda  
*Music Program Director*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 16, 2017 - 7:30 pm &
- Nov. 17, 2017 – 1:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
Charlie Brown Musical  
E.H. Theatre  
(Public \$10.00)  
(DSU Students Free)
- Nov. 21, 2017  
Music Industry Performance Seminar  
E.H. Theatre – 11 am
- December 5, 2017  
Music Performance Seminar  
MLH Center Parlor C – 11am (Free)



"One good thing about music,  
when it hits you, you feel no pain."

*Bob Marley*

## Paying homage to a Living Legend

### Dr. Howard Brockington

*Former DSU Music Department Chairperson*

Dr. Howard Burnell Brockington received his Bachelor of Music degree from Michigan State University in 1951 and his Master of Music degree, also from Michigan State University in 1953. In 1963 Dr. Brockington earned his Ph.D. in Composition from the University of Iowa. His first teaching position was at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida. He then moved on to Wilberforce University in Ohio and later to Knoxville College in Tennessee. It was in 1963 when Dr. Brockington came to Delaware and became rooted at Delaware State University.

In the early 1960's, Delaware State University's music department was small in both faculty and students, but was said to have notable talent in both areas. While talent was not lacking within the music department, a sense of academic structure and strategic planning was. When Dr. Brockington arrived at Delaware State University, he began the monumental task of transforming the DSU Music Department into a top tier music program. From the administrative level to the student body, Dr. Brockington's mission was to demonstrate that music at DSU was much more than a vehicle for entertainment.

In the early stages of the transformation of the music department, one specific goal was to develop a better relationship with DSU administrators and the surrounding communities. The department's notoriety flourished when Dr. Brockington developed a community choir, which combined the department's faculty and students with talented members within the neighboring communities. This unique approach along with a new curriculum structure elevated the program significantly, and allowed the department's national accreditation to remain in place.

After his nearly thirty years as chairperson, Dr. Brockington stated that he is most proud of overcoming the major challenge of educating DSU administrative officials, and local and state officials that the DSU music program had significance in the academic arena. His scholarly leadership and dedication to music during his tenure at DSU was vital in augmenting the program and key to its continued success.



**Dr. M. Morrison, Mr. M. Cooper,  
Dr. H. Brockington, Dr. Y. Johnson**



**90th Birthday Celebration**

# Alumni News

## **Tyrell Butler - B.A. in Music 2017**

Tyrell is currently pursuing a master's degree in music education plus certification at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He is a member of the Temple University Diamond Marching Band as a trombonist. Tyrell says graduate school is a lot different from undergrad and the pace varies depending on the program. He encourages current DSU students to take advantage of every opportunity available at the undergrad level.

## **Bri'Yahn Ritchie - B.A. in Music Education 2015**

Following graduation, Bri'Yahn became the band director of Easton High School located in Easton, MD. He is currently in his third year and will be considered for tenure at the end of the term. Since graduating from DSU, he has begun a master's degree program in education with Grand Canyon University. Last year, Bri'Yahn was featured in two of the Maryland State Education Association's "Actionline" magazines and a poster displayed in the association's headquarters in Annapolis, MD.

## **Jazmin Salaberrios – B.A. in Music 2015**

Jazmin was accepted into a young artist program in Tuscany, Italy. After returning, she started graduate school at the University of Delaware, where she made her operatic debut as Sophie in Jules Massenet's *Werther*. In May she graduated with a Master's degree in performance and had the honor of performing the National Anthem at three of the graduation ceremonies. She is in her third year as soprano section leader and soloist at Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware and is working long-term as a substitute for the music and art teacher at Towne Point Elementary School in Dover, Delaware. This past summer she participated in the Bayview Music festival in Michigan where she worked with world renowned Tenor and Conductor, Dr. Everette McCorvey. Later this month, she will be one of the soprano soloists for a performance of Bach's Magnificat in Atlanta, Georgia. Next year, she will be joining Kentucky Opera as their soprano artist in residence.

## **Von Morgan, Jr. - B.A. in Music Education 2015**

A member of both Phi Mu Alpha and Kappa Kappa Psi, Von is in his first year teaching general music at Richardson Park Elementary School in Wilmington, DE. He is also pursuing a master's degree in music education at Temple University. Additionally, Von works at the Boys and Girls Club program within his school and was recently recognized as the New Teacher of the Month for September. His spare time consists of singing and playing competitively with the Wilmington based Essence Legacy Drumline.

## **Marcel Sawyer. - B.A. in Music 2016**

Marcel Sawyer, Lyric Baritone and former student of Professor Devin Mercer, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2016 Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists in Northern Virginia.



## Current Student News



Music student **Elijah Fitzgerald**

(B.A. in Music, Music Industry Concentration – Class of 2018) was selected to perform with the College All-Star Trombone Choir at the University of Delaware's Trombone Day on Friday, February 25, 2017. He performed with students representing Penn State University, the Curtis Institute of Music, West Chester University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, George Mason University and others.



On Saturday, November 4, 2017, music student **Devin Davis**, tenor, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2017 Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists in Northern Virginia. He was the youngest competitor against students from Morgan State, Norfolk State, Bowie State, Roosevelt University School of Music and Stanford Universities.



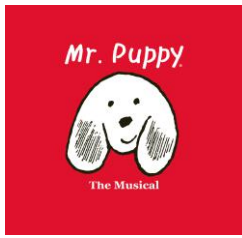
DSU music student **Marquita**

**Richardson** won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the CS Magazine Classical Emerging Professional Audience Choice competition this year. She won a cash prize and coupons to purchase online music. Marquita will be singing the lead role for the upcoming DSU theatre production of Charlie Brown in mid-November.



Music student **Charles Murrell, III** was recently an apprentice for the composer Hannibal Lokumbe with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Charles assisted Lokumbe by orchestrating his newest piece for children's chorus and orchestra "Hymn for the World". Charles will also be orchestrating for a new Children's Storytelling classical series in collaboration with Hannibal Lokumbe.

# Faculty News



**Dr. David L. Tolley** finished his 9<sup>th</sup> musical, which is actually a two and a half hour Rock Opera based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. He is currently recording the soundtrack album. His 8<sup>th</sup> musical is his only children's show called **MR PUPPY – the musical**, and is having its world premiere in February 2018 at Central Middle School under the direction of Ms. Natalie Way and **Us Theatrical Company**. He is currently writing a new musical with Allen Fawcett (one of the original Josephs on Broadway in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and host of Dick Clark's **PUTTIN ON THE HITS**).

**Dr. Carla Becker** has been elected as a Delaware Collegiate Representative for the Delaware Music Educators Organization. She also presented a session at the Delaware Music Educator's Conference Oct, 2017 titled "Give Me a Beat and We Can Create." This interactive session required participants to create a rhythm section into any Orff music classroom. Reggae, Spoken Word, and West African Music pieces were developed through creative improvisation. Coming this spring, Dr. Becker will be presenting at MoPop: (The Museum of Popular Music Culture) in Seattle, WA, Spring 2018. Her research "From Griot to the Blues: Women Band Leaders Leading the Movement" explores gender boundaries being broken across the seas.

**Dr. Frank Gazda** presented a lecture at the International Trombone Festival in Southern California titled "A Trombone Teacher's Guide to Teaching Tuba and Euphonium". He also participated in a world-record setting performance as a member of a 384-member trombone ensemble that performed at Lincoln Center, in New York City and was an adjudicator for the American Trombone Workshop's National Solo Competition.

**Dr. Lloyd Mallory's** Grammy nominated choral ensemble, The Lloyd Mallory Singers, performed in Charleston, South Carolina in October of 2017. They gave concerts in conjunction with REQUIEM FOR RICE, which premiered at the Mother Emmanuel AME Church (where the horrific shooting took place). The concerts throughout that weekend celebrated the fact that Charleston's judicial system is recognizing the brutal history of South Carolina and Georgia's rice plantations. Mallory and DSU alumnus Charles Murrell orchestrated for chamber ensemble music for the requiem.

After the Lichtenberg Brass Festival in August, **Dr. Patrick Hoffman** continued to travel in Europe to Venice, Barcelona, Rotterdam, and German cities of Munich, Hof, Dresden, Leipzig, Wiesbaden and Mainz. He attended and performed concerts and studied the cornetto, a renaissance instrument distantly related to the modern trumpet and recorder. Upon returning to the United States, Dr. Hoffman traveled to Oneonta, New York to perform in a brass quintet concert as a tribute to former Hartwick student and Canadian Brass member Fred Mills, who passed away in 2009. Dr. Hoffman was a student of Mr. Mills at the University of Georgia, and was commissioned to write a fanfare for the occasion, and organize the concert which featured former students of Mr. Mills who came from orchestras in Mexico, and service bands of Washington D.C.

**Mr. Devin Mercer** has served as a guest conductor with the Heritage Signature Chorale in Washington, DC. He was also featured as a soloist on a performance of Handel's *Messiah* at the Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, DC.



**Mr. Marty Denson** is currently mixing a music recording for the new BET hit comedy show "50 Central" created by hip-hop recording artist Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson. The recording will be featured in a Season 2 episode of "50 Central".

**Stephen Tipping** joined the Phil-a-Rhythm Percussion Quartet as the steel pan specialist, performing in over 20 educational seminars last spring. He played percussion for *Orange is the New Black: a Parody Musical* that was debuted by the Wilmington-based theater Bootless Stageworks. Mr. Tipping was also happy to be included in the all-professional pit for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* that was produced by the Delaware All-State Theater. This was the DAST's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and was held at the Tatnall School in Wilmington.



## Gallery of Recent Events



Members of the "President's Own" United States Marine Band present a clinic for DSU students and community members.



Staff Sergeant Christopher Reaves of the "Presidents Own" United States Marine Band coaches DSU trombone student Tyrell Butler.



Jazz educator Jarritt Sheel presents an improvisation workshop for DSU students and community members.



In August 2016, Dr. Patrick Hoffman accompanied DSU music students Neil Davis, Amy Fitzcharles, Hakeem Nabi, Devon Schlegel, Denzel Thompson, and Jovan Wilson on a trip to Germany to take part in the Lichtenberg Brass Festival. The students received scholarships from the Region of Oberfranken, and their travel was supported by generous contributions from the families of community member Robert Frazier and DSU alumni Dr. Don Blakey, as well as the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and the DSU Foundation. The students lived with host families in the town of Lichtenberg throughout the week of the festival, which included daily small and large ensemble rehearsals and masterclasses, and culminated with concerts in Hof, Lichtenberg and Kulmbach. At the festival Dr. Hoffman was invited to serve on faculty with Jeff Nelson, Professor of Horn at Indiana University, and to teach a masterclass and perform with faculty and hosting ensemble Rekkenze Brass Quintet.



Mr. "Fonzworth Bentley" from the popular group Outkast visits our music recording studio to inspire music industry students.

**(recent events continued)**



In November of 2015 the Delaware State University Choir joined with the choirs of Lincoln University and Morgan State University to perform the world premiere of Hannibal Lokumbe's *One Land, One River, One People* with the Philadelphia Orchestra. About the performance, the Philadelphia Inquirer said "The massed voices of the Delaware State University Choir, the Lincoln University Concert Choir, and Morgan State University Choir sang with spirit, accuracy and, near-miraculous diction".

## New Offerings Starting Spring 2018



### Steel Drum Ensemble

Dr. Carla Becker and Mr. Stephen Tipping received a grant through the Cultural Programming Fund to purchase a set of Caribbean steel drums for the music program. They will be putting their years of experience in performing and directing to good use by starting the DSU Steel Drum Ensemble. Keep an eye open for coming performances throughout the community!

The **Popular Music Ensemble** will focus on small ensemble performances of contemporary R&B, Jazz, Rock, and other popular music. The repertoire will be mostly of the students' choosing. With the combination of both electronic and acoustic instruments, the ensemble will end each semester with a live concert production.

The new **Global Music** course examines global societies through music, arts, and media. An emphasis will be placed on traditional music making while Popular music and its transnational globalization will also be addressed. Taught by Dr. Carla Becker, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 AM.

**Guitar Class** is intended for music education majors and other students who have no guitar experience. This course places emphasis on achievement of basic proficiency in chord playing, note reading, strumming patterns, and basic finger styles. Taught by Mr. Nathan Ames, Wednesdays at 4:30.

# Contact us

## Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Delaware-State-University-Music-Dept>

Get the latest news, photos, and short videos of what's happening in the DSU Music Department on social media. We will announce upcoming student recitals, faculty recitals, special performances, master classes and much more. Be a part of the excitement that is taking place right here in our department.

## Want to be featured in future newsletters?

1.

If you are a graduate from our music program, or former faculty member, we would like to hear from you.

Email us at:

[delstatemusic@gmail.com](mailto:delstatemusic@gmail.com)

2.

Tell us what you have been up to over the years and we will feature you in future newsletters.

3.

If you would like to become a part of our Music Department mailing list, please email us at:

[delstatemusic@gmail.com](mailto:delstatemusic@gmail.com)

## Department faculty & staff:

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## Music Tech Tip from Marty

Keep your Mac hard drive and music applications running smoothly and efficiently with these actions:

Macintosh HD > Utilities > Applications > Disk Utility

- Select "First Aid"
- Select "Run"

