



## Delaware State University Music Program

Volume 3: Issue 2

Spring 2020

### MUSIC PROGRAM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, February 13, 11:00 AM:** Dr. Frank Gazda Faculty Lecture Recital – Music by African American Composers (Art Center Gallery)

**Monday, February 17, 7:00 PM:** Tyler Brown Junior Voice Recital (EH Theater)

**Monday, February 17, 8:00 PM:** Mozella Matthews Senior Voice Recital (EH Theater)

**Tuesday, February 18, 11:00 AM:** Popular Music Ensemble Concert (EH Theater)

**Sunday, February 23, 4:00 PM:** Jaden Adkins, Sophomore Tuba Recital (EH Theater)

**Thursday, February 27, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM:** High School Choir Workshop (EH Theater) (Dr. Thompson)

**Tuesday, March 3, 11:00 AM:** Performance Seminar (EH Theater)

**Thursday, March 5, 11:00 AM:** Guest Vocal Recital and Masterclass with Baritone Daniel Rich (EH Theater)

**Thursday, March 19, 11:00 AM:** Percussion Studio Performance Seminar (EH Theater)

**Tuesday, March 24, 11:00 AM:** Music Faculty Chamber Music Concert (EH Theater)

**Saturday, March 28, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM:** Brass and Woodwind Day (Bank of America Building)

**Tuesday, March 31, 11:00 AM:** Performance Seminar (EH Theater)

**Tuesday, March 31, 11:00 AM:** Spring Bands Concert (EH Theater)

**Thursday, April 16, 11:00 AM:** Honors Recital (Art Center Gallery)

**Thursday, April 16, 7:00 PM:** DSU Theater presents Dr. David Tolley's Romeo and Juliet (EH Theater)

**Friday, April 17, 10:00 AM:** DSU Theater presents Dr. David Tolley's Romeo and Juliet (EH Theater)

**Friday, April 17, 7:00 PM:** DSU Theater presents Dr. David Tolley's Romeo and Juliet (EH Theater)

**Friday, April 17, 3:00 PM:** Q and A with Broadway agents Nancy Carson and Allen Fawcett and Director/Choreographer Jonathan Cerullo (EH Theater)

**Tuesday, April 21, 11:00 AM:** Dr. Derrick Thompson and Mr. Augustine Mercante Faculty Vocal Recital (EH Theater)

**Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 PM:** Brass Quintet Concert (EH Theater)

**Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 PM:** Tyler Watson, Junior Flute Recital (Art Center Gallery)

**Friday, April 24, 7:00 PM:** Howard Evans, Junior Voice Recital (Art Center Gallery)

**Monday, April 27, 7:00 PM:** Tyler Brown Senior Voice Recital (Art Center Gallery)

**Tuesday, April 28, 11:00 AM:** Performance Seminar (Art Center Gallery)

**Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 PM:** Manny Scott, Senior Percussion Recital (EH Theater)

**Thursday, April 30, 7:00 PM:** Popular Music Ensemble Concert (EH Theater)

**Sunday, May 3, 4:00 PM:** Spring Choral Concert (EH Theater)

## Student News



(L-R) Professor Janice Jackson - voice faculty UMBC/Director of the UMBC Jubilee and Gospel Choirs, Ethan Watermeier - Voice Instructor - American University Department of Performing Arts, Erika Rollins, soprano - UMBC student, Tara Kitchelt, soprano - UMBC student, Mozella Matthews, soprano - DSU student, Jasmine Mays-Robinson, soprano - Peabody student, Howard Evans, tenor, DSU student, Michael Wingate, bass - DSU student, Dr. Derrick Thompson.

DSU vocal students visited Peabody Conservatory where they performed in a masterclass with students from Peabody and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. They received coaching and feedback from faculty from American University, UMBC, and Delaware State's own Dr. Derrick Thompson.



The DSU University Choral Program had a busy fall of state-wide outreach. They were invited by Senator Darius Brown and DSU President Tony Allen to perform at the re-dedication of the George White Historical Marker in Greenbank Park on Sunday, Oct 20. On November 16 at First Baptist Church, Dover, the choir participated in the Kent County Sixth Annual Gospel Fest, celebrating local Dover citizens for their commitment and service to the public.

The new Delaware State University Choral Union made its debut performance. Comprised of faculty, staff, and community members, the Choral Union joined with the University Choir's performance of Handel's *Messiah* in December. Rehearsals for the ensemble resumed on January 27th from 7 to 9 p.m. in the choir room; join us for Schubert's *Mass in G*.



The DSU Brass Quintet has been invited to attend the Brass Chamber Music Festival at the internationally renowned Haus Marteau estate in Lichtenberg, Germany from July 27th to August 2nd, 2020. The quintet will be accompanied by Dr. Patrick Hoffman who has been invited to serve on the faculty at the festival, which is hosted by the Rekkenze Brass Quintet of Hof, Germany. Dr. Hoffman was a member of Rekkenze Brass from 1998 until 2001, and this will be the third time he has taken a brass quintet from DSU to Germany to participate in this festival (2009, 2015). The members of the quintet are Marcus Trotter and Elijah August on trumpets, Malik Maillard and Elijah Shy on trombones, and Jaden Adkins on tuba. The students will stay with German families, and each day attend rehearsals and masterclasses given by Rekkenze Brass, Dr. Hoffman, and the guest artist of the festival, Jurgen Ellensohn who is principal trumpet of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony. The DSU Brass Quintet will perform concerts in Lichtenberg, Hof and Kulmbach at the culmination of the festival. Dr. Hoffman and the students will be working this spring to raise money to cover the travel costs, and any support would be greatly appreciated. For more information please contact Dr. Hoffman at: [phoffman@desu.edu](mailto:phoffman@desu.edu)

## Student News

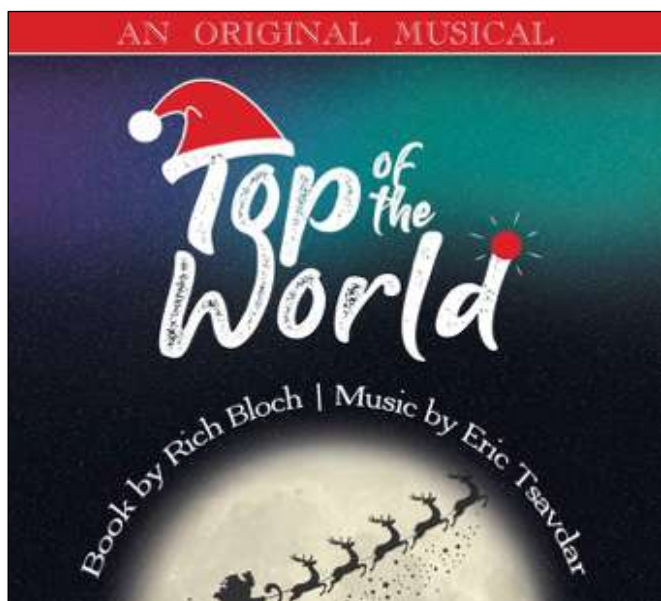


Members of the DSU vocal studio and choir were hosted by Opera Philadelphia for a performance of the *Requiem* by Giuseppe Verdi. The students received a backstage tour and attended a fabulous performance!



DSU low brass students Jaden Adkins, Elijah Shy, Malik Maillard, and Alex Gibson attended the annual DSU trip to the United States Army Band National Tuba-Euphonium Conference at Fort Myer, Virginia.

## Alumni News



**Eric Tsavdar** (BA in Music Education, 2011) is in his seventh year as choral director at Selbyville Middle School in Selbyville, Delaware. On the side, he plays piano at St. George's United Methodist Church, and continues to compose original music, most recently

completing the soundtrack for a one-act Christmas musical, *Top of the World*, which was staged this holiday season at Dickens Parlour Theater in Millville, Delaware.

**Joshua Palmer** (BA in Music Education, 2010) has been the Director of Bands at Smyrna High School since 2012. In the spring of 2019 the "Regiment of Red" Marching Band received a Superior Rating and were named Grand Champions at the OrlandoFest music festival. In December of 2019 Josh was named the Delaware Representative of 50 Directors Who Make A Difference by School Band and Orchestra Magazine.

**Hakeem Nabi** (BA in Music Ed, 2017) is a General Music Teacher in Smyrna School District at Clayton Intermediate School (5th and 6th). Hakeem also assists the Smyrna High School Marching Band Program as their music arranger. In January of 2020 he started his Masters of Music in Music Technology degree at Southern Utah University.

## Faculty News



**Dr. Patrick Hoffman**, Professor of Trumpet and Music Theory, was invited to perform Handel's *Messiah* with the Choir School of Delaware on their Winter Concert under the direction of Arreon Harley. The orchestra performed on period

instruments that were in use in the 1700's, therefore Dr. Hoffman played what is referred to as the 'Natural' or 'Baroque' trumpet. This type of trumpet differs from the modern trumpet in that there are no valves. The concert was held at First and Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington on December 15. Also joining Dr. Hoffman in the orchestra was former DSU staff member Joyce Chen on harpsichord, who is completing a doctoral degree in Early Music at Princeton.

**Low Brass Music by African American Composers**  
A Lecture Recital

George Walker   Anthony Barfield   Edmond Dédé   Melba Linné   William Grant Still

**Dr. Frank Gazda**  
trombone, bass trombone, and euphonium  
with Sherry Roscoe, piano

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 11:00 AM  
Art Center Gallery, William Jason Library  
Delaware State University  
Free and Open to the Public

**Dr. Frank Gazda** served as an adjudicator for the Delaware Music Educators Association Solo/Ensemble Festival held on February 8. On February 13 Dr. Gazda gave a Lecture/Recital titled "*Low Brass Music by African-American Composers*", as part of DSU's Black History Month program.

**Dr. David Tolley's** musical *Madam of the Atom* (Book and lyrics by Harry A Fawcett, Music by David L Tolley) was selected by the New York Musical Festival 2020 as a finalist out of over 150 worldwide submitted musicals. On January 3rd it was announced that it was one of only five shows selected to be produced off-broadway by the festival.



**Dr. Carla Becker** has been invited to give the following presentations: *Dalcroze and Yoga, what?* at the New Jersey State Music Education Conference on Feb. 20th, 2020. *Culturally Self Representative Pedagogies--Hip Hop Expressions* at the Association for Popular Music Education's 2020 Conference at the Detroit Institute of Music Education (DIME) in Detroit Michigan in May, 2020, and *Troubling the Standard Idea of Success—Through Love* Critical Race Theory in Education National Conference in May, 2020 at the University of Delaware.



**Dr. Derrick Thompson** has been touring the region, presenting clinics and working with choirs at a variety of high schools, including McKean High School - Wilmington, DE, Smyrna High School - Smyrna, DE, I.C. Norcom High School - Portsmouth, VA, Woodrow Wilson High School - Portsmouth, VA, Radford High School - Radford, VA, Brookville High School - Lynchburg, VA, and Patrick Henry High School - Roanoke, VA. The students unanimously said that they had a great time, and were thrilled to learn from Dr. Thompson.

## Guest Artists

The Music Program will be hosting a variety of guest artists this spring to perform and present masterclasses. All members of the DSU community and public are invited to these special events! All events are free and open to the public.



On Saturday, March 28, DSU will host our annual Brass and Woodwind Day in the Bank of America Building. Events will start at 10:00 AM. Special guests include Wayne J. du Maine, Dr. Brian Levels and the **Brass Quintet from the United States Air Force Ceremonial Band**. As a trumpeter, **Wayne J. du Maine** has performed and recorded with such ensembles as the New York Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and Orchestra of St. Luke's. He currently holds the principal chair with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the American Composers Orchestra. He is Director of Brass Studies at New York University. Wayne has also been contracted to play many Broadway shows like *Titanic*, *Music Man*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *The King and I*. He has served as associate conductor for *Fiddler on the Roof*, the Lincoln Center production of *South Pacific*, and *The Scottsboro Boys*. Wayne can be heard on Prince's *Newpower Soul* recording.



**Dr. Brian E. Levels** earned his Bachelor of Music degree (cum laude), Master of Music degree, and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in multiple woodwind performance from the University of North Texas. Dr. Levels currently serves as a freelance musician and teacher in New York. His experience includes performing with the Grammy Nominated University of North Texas Wind Symphony, Paradigm orchestra, Lyric Stage, Broadway tours of *Porgy and Bess* and *Phantom of the Opera*, Omaha Symphony

Orchestra, The New Philharmonic, Opera Omaha, Omaha Symphonic Winds and national and international tours with *42nd Street*, *Aida*, *Hairspray*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Legally Blonde*.



On Thursday, March 5, at 11:00 AM, DSU will host a Guest Vocal Recital and Masterclass with Baritone **Daniel Rich** in the EH Theater. Daniel is a winner of the 2016 Harlem Opera Theater Vocal Competition, The 2018 Mario Lanza Institute Vocal Competition and The B-Sharp Chapter of NANM's 2019 Marian Anderson Vocal Competition. Daniel recently made his Carnegie Hall debut as a soloist in Vaughan-Williams' *Serenade to Music* under the baton of Maestro Leonard Slatkin for the MSM Centennial Gala. He also recently portrayed Parson Alltalk in Joplin's *Treemonisha* with Trilogy an Opera Company. Daniel is an alumnus of Morgan State University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music and of the Manhattan School of Music, where he earned his Master of Music degree and studied in the voice studio of Mr. Mark Oswald.



Broadway agents **Nancy Carson** and **Allen Fawcett** and Director/Choreographer **Jonathan Cerullo**, will be hosting a Q and A on Friday, April 17 at 3:00 pm in the EH Theater.

## General News



The Delaware State University Music Program has received the generous donation of a harpsichord from Old Dominion Antiques, Vintage and Collectibles. We are thrilled to begin using this instrument in our performances of baroque music! Thanks to sophomore Music Education major **Rashawn King** for his efforts in securing this wonderful donation!



The DSU Popular Music Ensemble has been selected to perform in a special "Concert Hour" at this year's New Jersey Music Educators Association Conference being held in Atlantic City, New Jersey at the Atlantic City Convention Center. The performance is scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2020 and will feature nine very talented vocalists and musicians in the DSU Music Program.

Assistant Professor of Music Education **Dr. Carla Becker** has been awarded a grant by the educational organization Little Kids Rock. This grant will enable Dr. Becker to attend a modern band conference, and will supply musical instruments to DSU for use in continuing to develop the Music Program's popular music ensemble and to develop new courses in the music education curriculum.



The First State Brass is a brass quartet comprised of Music Program faculty members **Dr. Frank Gazda** on trombone, **Dr. Patrick Hoffman** on trumpet, **Sara Hoffman** on horn, and community member **Robert Couto** on trumpet. The quartet will perform a concert on March 7th at 3 pm, at the historic Barratt's Chapel, south of Dover on Route 1. The First State Brass will showcase a wide variety of musical styles, including several works written around the time of the completion of the chapel, in 1780.

# Contact Us

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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 program.

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)

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