

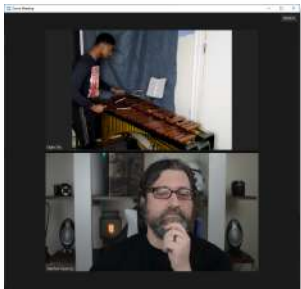
DSU Music Program

Fall 2020 Newsletter - Volume 4 • Issue 1



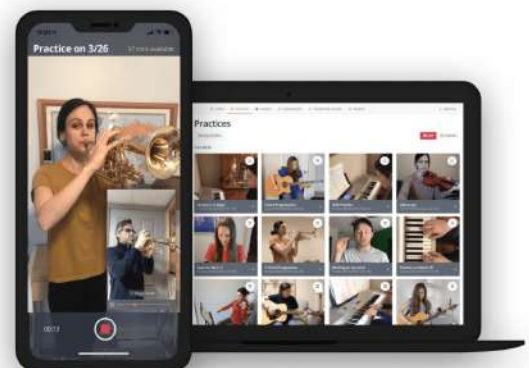
The Delaware State University Music Program and The Coronavirus

DSU music classes and applied lessons are being taught synchronously through various virtual platforms, including Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and Zoom. The virtual environment, while posing challenges, has allowed faculty and students to be creative and develop new assignments based on the technology available, such as this extra credit assignment from MUSC 324, Music History: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xnVdS79p6g&feature=youtu.be>



Elijah Shy (Junior, Music Education) during a remote learning session. One of the challenges facing Elijah was having lessons while not having access to the school's instruments. Fortunately, Elijah found a marimba to rent near his family's home in East Orange, NJ, and was able to acquire lights and a microphone to have lessons from his bedroom.

The Office of the Provost purchased the online music learning platform COLLABRA for the music program to use during the pandemic. Collabra is a high-powered learning tool that allows the student to record assigned music in video or audio format, and for the teacher to provide feedback. The University Choir has used Collabra in several ways over the course of the semester. The choir meets on Mondays and Wednesdays and finishes the week by submitting a weekly Collabra assignment on Fridays. This assignment can range from sight-singing activities to performing the student's voice part of the repertoire over the week. The choir also uses the program to work together collaboratively, creating four-part audio recordings of the repertoire covered, allowing them to create that missing component of being on campus, which is working together.



The music program purchased subscriptions for the ear training software Earmaster for all students enrolled in ear training classes. The program includes real-time feedback for harmonic dictation and sight-singing exercises, making it ideal for use in a virtual environment.



Dr. Derrick Thompson presented a virtual recital on April 14, 2020. Dr. Thompson included repertoire by Giuseppe Giordani, George Frideric Handel, and Andy Williams. The recital can be watched here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKEUmwBmmcs>

Members of the DSU Choir performed virtually for the 2020 Convocation and President's Prayer Breakfast.



Delaware State University partnered with Opera Philadelphia to host a virtual masterclass by world-famous tenor Lawrence Brownlee. DSU students Howard Evans, Jr. and Michael Wingate sang for Mr. Brownlee and were accompanied by Sarah Gober.



The music program purchased twelve Nektar 61-key Impact GX USB keyboards that will be checked out by and sent to students who do not have access to a keyboard for their piano studies.



The Delaware State University "Approaching Storm" Marching Band produced their first virtual performance, performing Mariah Carey's *Fly Like a Bird*. Watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qekR7l7CjWI&feature=youtu.be>

Student News

Music Education major Michael Wingate won the Portugal Beatbox League: Worldwide International Online Battle. He also placed 19th overall in the Online World Beatbox Championships. He has been steadily releasing beatbox videos on his YouTube and Instagram - @matchbeatbox. His beatbox duo, Forest Fire will be releasing an album this winter. Michael's band, Ember, has released virtual videos since quarantine started. Follow them on Instagram @embervocals. Ember's virtual *How Deep is Your Love* cover: <https://youtu.be/jc9EU-u6kUI>



Hazelies an artist from the Tri-state, is creating a different sound in music you could compare it to the new wave of music that JuiceWRLD & others have created but it has a different sound to it, her music is a mix of Hip-hop/Alternative.

Music Industry major Jadyn Rivera is staying active during quarantine. She dropped six songs, four are available on all streaming platforms. She collaborated with another Delaware artist, ZayeWave, getting the attention of North Philly's 98.5 Uptown Radio which showcases upcoming artists from the tri-state area every Friday. The collaboration *Wastin' My Time* and Jadyn's song *Dreams* zipped to the top of the charts and sat at 3rd and 7th respectively. The songs remained on the charts for 15 weeks! Jadyn is also featured on ValuezTv, a Delaware-based music website that highlights talent in the First State. To find her, go to valueztv.com click "Tri-State Artists" and scroll down to HazeLies. Finally, her song, *For Me* was featured on the Delaware Top 50 summer mixtape and their Instagram @delawaretop50. More music is coming this fall, including features with Onkc Watt, AC Buzz, Lil Benz, and even Australia's Lil Sparkzo. Search "HazeLies" on any streaming platform to listen to the featured tracks.

Alumni News

Tyrell Butler (BA in Music, 2017) graduated with his master's degree in music education from Temple University and has accepted a position teaching at Towne Point Elementary in the Capital School District. Tyrell has also been promoted from baritone technician to assistant brass caption head for the Raiders drum and bugle corp.



In addition to teaching in the Capital School District, Tynisha Hearne (BA in Music Education) has been busy with her own original music! She released a project titled *A Rose Thru Stone*, which consists of all songs she wrote, and was produced and engineered by William Pitts (DSU BA in Music Education). It has a visual album that can be found on Youtube: Tynisha Sounds. Tynisha performs locally with fellow alum Shawn Walker (BA in Music) under the name Ty & Skyyz at Grey Fox Grille, Golden Fleece Tavern, The House of Coffi, and most recently Makers Alley in Wilmington. *A Rose Thru Stone* <https://youtu.be/k7YBhJbMXOE> Live performances: <https://youtu.be/RXQwLJ5HS5Y>, <https://youtu.be/Au3ioHRuUIk>

In the Spring and Summer of 2020, with music ensembles facing strict limitations on their ability to perform, Eric Tsavdar (BA in Music Education, 2013), with his friend and colleague Matthew Wattenmaker, arranged two virtual choir performances through the Sussex County Music Educators Association that were open to anyone interested in volunteering their time and talents to learning the music and recording themselves.

The first piece, entitled *Capture the Sun*, was written by Eric Tsavdar. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1d2J5tT-Pcs&feature=youtu.be>

The second piece, called *Across the Sky*, was written by Steve Bernstein and arranged for choir by Eric Tsavdar. <https://youtu.be/CwoRwUTr8RU>



Von Morgan (BA in Music Education) was invited to speak at the Red Clay School District NXTFEST, which is a college and career fair for 11th and 12th grade students. His session was titled *Why I Teach*. Von discussed his journey to the classroom, the greatest rewards and challenges of being a teacher, and why he is on a mission to inspire more young people to join the teaching profession.

Faculty News

Dr. Frank Gazda, Professor of Music, has been invited to give a virtual masterclass for the brass students at New Jersey City University on Friday, November 20. Dr. Gazda is also involved in several virtual performances with ensembles including the Capitol Brass and the Delaware Winds.



Lionel Thomas, Adjunct Instructor of Violin, participated in a virtual performance with the Gateways Music Festival. The performance of *Lift Every Voice and Sing* was a co-production of the Gateways Music Festival and WQXR Classical Radio-New York. The performance can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4FG_3ShmAw&feature=youtu.be

Dr. Derrick Thompson, Director of Choral Activities, has joined the Board of Directors of the Delaware chapter of the American Choral Directors Association as the Chair of the Diversity Initiative. Dr. Thompson also presented a session at the 2020 Delaware Music Educators Association conference titled: *Conducting Gestures Suitable for Beautiful Singing*. The session was very well attended and received.



Stephen Cirino, Adjunct Instructor of Music Industry, was featured in CNBC's story, *Spotify continues to soar over global competitors on paid subscriptions*. <https://cnb.cx/2ZEWQHT>

Our Music Technology Specialist, Marty Denson, recently delivered a Synchronous Virtual Performance Presentation via ZOOM to the Chester Community Charter School in Chester, Pennsylvania. The presentation included a comprehensive approach to delivering musical content online for solo and synchronized group performances.

A screenshot of a Zoom presentation slide. The slide has a dark blue background with white and yellow text. At the top, it says "Chester Community Charter School presents...". Below that, in large white letters, is "A Synchronous Virtual Performance Presentation" followed by "Friday, October 2, 2020 (on ZOOM)". Underneath, in smaller white text, is "A step-by-step presentation on creating synchronized musical performances in an online environment". On the left side, there is a screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid showing several participants. On the right side, there is a portrait of Marty T. Denson, M.Ed., EMDT, Music Technology Specialist & Music Industry Instructor. To the left of the portrait, the text reads "Featured Presenter:" followed by "Areas of Focus:" and a list: "The Facilitator/Conductor", "The Performers", and "The Editing Process". Below the list, it says "An Apple computer is all you need." and "Join me on ZOOM:" followed by "A link will be emailed to you to gain access."

Faculty News *continued*

Adjunct Stephen Tipping and his wife Christine welcomed to the world their daughter Lilith Michael Tipping on March 8, 2020. Everyone is healthy and was fortunately home before the shutdown took place.



During the period of social distancing, Mr. Tipping was involved in various virtual projects including a performance for The Music School of

Delaware and a collaboration with multiple musicians on “The Hope Project: A digital collage performance” coordinated by composer David Molk.

General News



On October 15, 2020, the DSU Music Industry Program hosted a Zoom lecture by BMG Music, one of the four major music conglomerates. Four members of BMG’s staff presented a Zoom lecture about music synch and licensing for television, film, and multimedia.



On March 5, 2020, DSU was thrilled to host baritone Daniel Rich for a masterclass and performance. Mr. Rich coached students Michael Wingate, Chloe Humphrey, and Howard Evans and gave a terrific performance. Bravo to all involved!



On March 6, DSU low brass students visited the American Trombone Workshop, hosted by the United States Army Band at Fort Myer, VA. Students Jaden Adkins, Elijah Shy, Malik Maillard, and Alex Gibson attended concerts, clinics and visited the displays. Here, Jaden Adkins checks out a contrabass trombone!



On March 4, 2020, Dr. David Tolley’s Music Recording II class visited Wave Labs recording studio in Wilmington and got the chance to check out the facility and to meet the engineers.

Contact Us

Visit us online at:

<https://chess.desu.edu/music>

Find us on Facebook

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

Follow us on Instagram

@dsu_music

Get the latest news, photos, and short videos of what's happening in the DSU Music Program 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

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

Department Faculty & Staff:

Dr. Charlisa Edelin, Chair, Mass Communications, Visual & Performing Arts - cedelin@desu.edu

Dr. Raymond-Joseph Bohn, Adjunct Instructor, Bass
rayjbohn@gmail.com

Dr. Frank Gazda, Professor, Program Director/Low Brass
fgazda@desu.edu

Mr. Nathan Ames, Adjunct Instructor, Guitar
nathanames@aol.com

Dr. Carla Becker, Assistant Professor, Music Education
cbecker@desu.edu

Mr. Jovan Wilson, Interim Director of Bands
jawilson@desu.edu

Mr. Stephen Cirino, Adjunct Instructor, Music Industry
scirino@desu.edu

Dr. LaPointe Davis, Professor, Woodwinds
ladavis@desu.edu

Mr. Marty Denson, Music Technology Specialist
mdenson@desu.edu

Dr. Patrick Hoffman, Professor, Music Theory/Trumpet
phoffman@desu.edu

Mrs. Sara Hoffman, Adjunct Instructor, Music Theory/Horn - shoffman@desu.edu

Mrs. Inger Lawton, Secretary
ilawton@desu.edu

Mr. Augustine Mercante, Adjunct Instructor, Voice
countergus@gmail.com

Dr. Mable Morrison, Associate Professor, Piano
mmorrison@desu.edu

Mr. Lionel Thomas, Adjunct Instructor, Strings
violinel440@gmail.com

Dr. Derrick Thompson, Choral Director
dthompson@desu.edu

Mr. Stephen Tipping, Adjunct Instructor, Percussion
stipping@desu.edu

Dr. David Tolley, Associate Professor, Music Industry
dtolley@desu.edu