

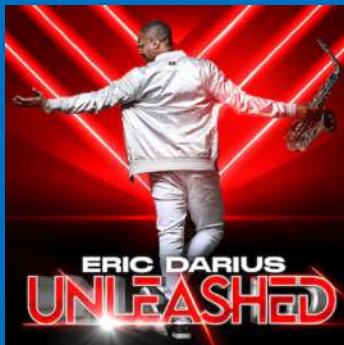
DSU Music Program

Fall 2022 Newsletter - Volume 5 • Issue 2



Fall 2022 Music Program Events Schedule

- October 13, 11:00 AM: Eric Darius, Guest Artist (EH Theater)
- October 14, all day: DMEA Music Conference (Middletown HS)
- October 18, 11:00 AM: Faculty Showcase Recital (Location TBA)
- October 28: Student Trip to Mozart's *Così fan tutti*
- November 1, 11:00 AM: Student Performance Seminar (EH Theater)
- November 10, 11:00 AM: Dr. Frank Gazda Faculty Recital “Diverse Voices” (Art Center Gallery)
- November 15, 11:00 AM: Student Performance Seminar (Art Center Gallery)
- December 1, Time TBA: Band Christmas Concert (EH Theater)
- December 2, Time TBA: Band Christmas Concert (Schwartz Center)
- December 4, Time TBA: Band Christmas Concert (Salisbury, MD)
- December 6, 11:00 AM: Student Performance Seminar 11:00am (EH Theater)
- December 6, 7:00 PM: Jesslyn Shane Junior Trombone Recital (Art Center Gallery)
- December 8, 11:00 AM: Music Education Performance Seminar (EH 138)



Featured artist ERIC Darius: Thursday, October 13, 2022

The world-renowned jazz saxophonist is coming to DSU for a FREE performance/workshop before his show at the Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival. Dedicated to music education, Eric attributes his success in his career to the opportunities he had in school and feels that music is a vital part of every child’s education. Now he wants to pay it forward. His “On a Mission in Schools” partners with schools and universities nationwide to promote music and education. Check out the DESU-TV interview with Eric Darius here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFWJfc1RlBM>

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

DSU welcomes new Assistant Professor of Woodwinds **LeTriel Monique White**. Known for her virtuosic ability to perform fluently on the clarinet within the worlds of orchestral and chamber music while at the same time working as a saxophonist and flutist in the varied genres of jazz, alternative rock, r&b and rap music. She has been a fixture within the music landscape of Houston, Texas for the past 10 years. Ms. White has performed with The Temptations, The Joe Sample Jazz Orchestra, The Four Tops, DaCamera Houston, the Colour of Music Festival, Kirk Whalum, the Gateways Music Festival at Carnegie Hall, the NeWorks Symphony at the Kennedy Center, and more artists and events to list. Ms. White's music education endeavors include teaching music in school districts, serving as a D'Addario Reserve Method Clinician, and teaching in woodwinds in the music department at Texas Southern University (Houston, as an educator and artist include maintaining an active private music lesson studio, delivering clinics and workshops, and performing as an independent artist in concerts and recording sessions nationally. Ms. White is currently completing her Doctorate in Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University as she aspires to continue to contribute to the advancement of other young artists.



Dr. Gregory Allen McPherson is the new Choir Director at Delaware State University. Dr. McPherson has distinguished himself as a major figure in entertainment, being one of the most sought-after composers, arrangers, performers, conductors & producers involved in modern music. Some of the artists and ensembles benefiting from his talents and expertise include jazz greats Lionel Hampton, Sarah Vaughn, Clark Terry, James Moody, Max Roach, Wynton Marsalis, George Benson, Warren Hill, Betty Carter, George Russell, Ron McCurdy, and Nancy Wilson. In television, R&B, popular music, film, & musical theatre have included his work with New Kids on The Block, Bobby Womack, Smokey Robinson, Kashif, James Brown, The Pointer Sisters, Jayne Kennedy, Bill Overton, Lalah Hathaway, Tiffany, Larry Leon Hamlin, Patti Austin, Tatyanna Ali, Martin Lawrence, Boyz II Men, Tamia, James Ingram, Bon Jovi, Peabo Bryson, Cindy Lauper, Vanessa Williams, Howard Hewett, and Peter Wolf. He's also worked as lead and associate producer on several

production teams for recordings that have won several Grammys, Oscars, NAACP Image Awards, American Music Awards, Emmys, ASCAP & BMI Awards, Billboard Music Awards, Grammy Legends Awards, and Soul Train Music Awards. Dr. McPherson has produced records for CBS, RCA, Quincy Jones' QWEST Records, BMG, MCA, Elektra, Capitol, Arista, SONY, Atlantic, Polygram, Warner Brothers, Motown, EPIC, Disney, and several other labels, and as a ghost writer, orchestrator, arranger and composer for soundtracks for New Line Cinema, PBS, SPLC, ABC-Disney, Sony Pictures, and Columbia-TriStar. His label, Silent Images, was also distributed by QWEST/Warner Brothers Records for his multiple jazz, pop, r&b, and longform pieces. In advertising, he's had some of the biggest ads and clients around the world including Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Mattel, McDonald's, General Electric, Toyota, Lincoln Properties, L. A. Gear, Fox T.V., Reebok, The New England Patriots, ComputerVision, Pizza Hut, The NBA, Hasbro and many others. Many of his classical works have been performed by several orchestras and select chamber groups from & including the Florida Symphony, The Carolina Philharmonic, The Dallas Symphony, The Atlanta Symphony, The Charleston Symphony Orchestra, The Boston Ballet, The Louisville Orchestra, The Alabama Symphony, The Philadelphia Orchestra,

The Baltimore Philharmonic Orchestra, The Boston Pops Orchestra, The New York Philharmonic Orchestra, and many others.

As an educator, Dr. McPherson has served at the University of South Florida, Texas College, Washington State University, Alabama State University, The University of Massachusetts, and a lecturer at Boston College, Harvard University, Kobe University and The New England Conservatory of Music. He has also held senior leadership & faculty post at the Berklee College of Music, Allen University - Morris Brown College, and Stillman College respectively. He has a BFA from Alabama State University and an MM from the University of South Florida, with additional studies at The University of the Virgin Islands, Universite d'Etat d'Haiti, as well as the New England Conservatory of Music with noted black composer & author, George Russell. He is also the recipient of several Honorary Doctoral Degrees, and the Doctor of Music Degree (honoris causa). He has also recently completed a new book on the roles and responsibilities of African-Americans in today's music industry entitled "A Black Face In Today's Music Business", which takes a clear open analytic view on many problems in entertainment, thus, offering suggestions for possible solutions.

Alumni News



Casey Artis (BA in Music Education, 2020) auditioned for the Maverick City Gospel Choir in New York City and was admitted the same day. They are a body of nearly 600 singers across the United States. After joining the choir, Casey performed background on a live recording for JJ Hairston and Naomi Raine. She then went on a summer long tour with Grammy award winning gospel artist Kirk Franklin, including major cities in California, Texas, Florida, Canada, Pennsylvania, and many more. They performed with a dozen artists including Tamela Mann, Tori Kelly, Travis Greene, Natalie Grant, Todd Galberth, and many more, including a week of live performances on shows like *The View*, *Fox and Friends*, and *Tiny Desk Concerts*. This November the choir is scheduled to start part two of their tour at Barclays Center in New York City, with many more projects to come following that. Casey says “the audition process, traveling, and singing has been such a new and fulfilling experience for me and I am grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Maverick movement.” Casey works at Academy of Dover Charter School in Dover teaching K-5 General music, 6-8 Chorus and Band, and related Arts/Elective teacher. She also works part time doing administration and teaching at a music company that teaches piano, woodwinds, and voice. Casey is also currently working on her Masters Degree from Liberty University and preparing to start her thesis.

Bryant Dotson (BA in Music Education) is a band and chorus director at George V. Kirk Middle School in Newark, DE. He received his Masters degree in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University. Bryant lives in Dover and has 3 kids.

Alumni News



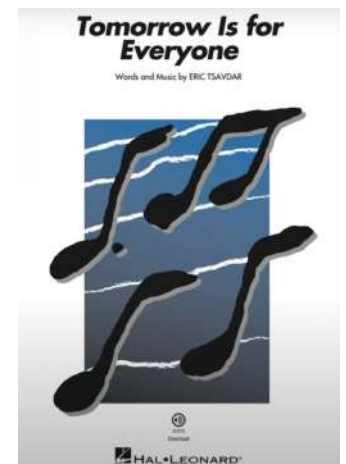
Kelsey Oldland (BA in Music Education) recently finished her Bachelors degree equivalency in music therapy, completing her internship this past July. She also recently passed her national board certification for music therapy and can now use the credential MT-BC (music therapist-board certified). She also received approval for her music therapy license in Maryland, so she is a licensed professional music therapist (LPMT) in MD. She works at Chesapeake Music Therapy based out of Salisbury, MD and works with early childhood, adults and children with developmental disabilities and neurodivergence, as well as conducts adapted piano and guitar lessons.

Tyreese Pleasanton (BA in Music, 2015) is currently the Director of Bands at Pietzsch-MacArthur Pre-K Center (2022-present) in Beaumont, TX. At the middle school level, he directs the marching band, concert band, jazz band, and soloists. Tyreese is currently pursuing his Master of Arts in Music Education at Liberty University. A flutist, he was employed in the East Baton Rouge School System, in Baton Rouge, LA from 2018-2022.



Jazmin Salaberrios (BA in Music, 2015) received her Masters of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Delaware in 2017. She is currently a Doctorate of Musical Arts Candidate at the University of Kentucky School of Music. This semester she is covering roles of The Queen of The Night and Pamina in Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's opera *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*).

Eric Tsavdar (BA in Music Education, 2011) teaches choir and general music at Selbyville Middle School. He recently had his fourth choral composition, *Tomorrow Is for Everyone*, published by major publisher Hal Leonard.



Alumni News



Jovan Alexander Wilson (B.A. in Music) has been appointed interim director of University Bands at North Carolina Central University. As interim director of University Bands, Mr. Wilson will direct all aspects of the University Bands program, including the NCCU Sound Machine, the Symphonic Band, and the Pep Band. Wilson has served as chief music arranger for the NCCU Sound Machine. He formerly served as interim director and assistant director of University Bands at Delaware State University and director of bands for Delaware State University's Early College High School. He has also served as music arranger for 14 high school bands in the Eastern US. Wilson holds a Master of Education in educational leadership from North Central University and is pursuing a Master of Music Education in wind ensemble conducting at Longy Conservatory of Music at Bard College.

Faculty News

Dr. Frank Gazda has been invited to present his clinic "The Trombone Teachers Guide to Teaching Tuba and Euphonium" at the 2023 North Carolina Trombone Festival hosted by the University of North Carolina-Charlotte on January 23, 2023. He has also been invited to present his clinic "Stronger Ensemble Fundamentals in Five Minutes a Day" at the Delaware Music Educator's Conference on October 14. Among other performances, he performed with the First State Brass in a recital titled *Classics with a Twist* at the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach on May 19.

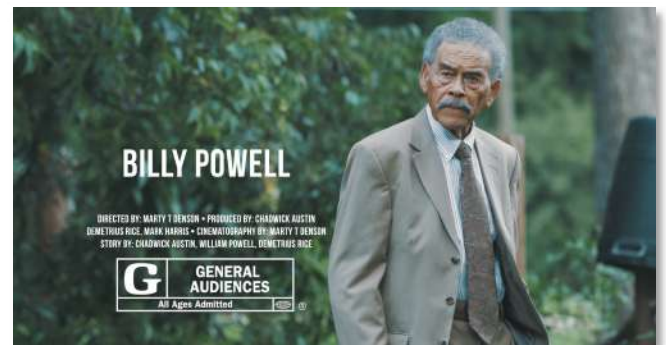


Advisory Board for "Music Will" Martha Diaz, Toki Wright, DJ Rawls, Dan Brown, Carla Becker, Yogi Guyadin.

Dr. Carla Becker was busy in the Summer of 2022 having fun. In the Spring of 2022, she joined the advisory board for the Music Education Organization "Little Kids Rock." The organization is renaming itself to "Music Will." The board members include performers, professors, and entrepreneurs in the Hip Hop business. The board met for a year in assisting Little Kids Rock on ways in which to organize curriculum and mission statements concerning Black Popular Music in Music Education spaces. In July 2022,

during the annual Modern Band Summit held in Ft. Collins Colorado, the same advisory board was requested to present multiple keynote sessions and workshops centered around "Hip Hop Music Education." Future Confirmed Presentations include October 14th at the Delaware Music Education Conference and November 8th at the Society for Ethnomusicology in New Orleans.

Marty Denson, along with his media production team that includes DSU staff member Mark Harris and others, is currently directing and producing a short film of a prominent and influential individual from Cabal, South Carolina. The short film titled "Billy Powell" takes a look at the journey of how a young man who was once evicted from his home with very few resources and no money, amasses an incredible amount wealth over time. This extraordinary true story illustrates the determination of one man on a quest to not only generate wealth, but to ultimately share his wealth with others. The short film which takes place in South Carolina is set to debut in February 2023 on Vimeo and YouTube.



General News



The DSU Bands hosted DCI Dover on July 6, 2022. This competition was hosted in conjunction with the Jersey Surf Drum and Bugle Corp. In addition to being the first time that DSU has collaborated with the major marching band circuit "Drums Corps International), this event also served as a fund raiser for the Delaware State University Band Program.

In August 2022 Dr. Carla Becker, Mr. Marty Denson from the Music Industry Program, and Mass Communications Major Zion Weeks collaborated by receiving Press Passes to attend the "Bettie James Festival" in Milton Delaware. The three interviewed the Country Music Grammy Award winner Mr. Jimmie Allen about his musical journey through stardom. The interview will be posted within the months of October-November.



Jimmie Allen, having close ties to DSU and Mr. Marty Denson specifically, shared fond memories of recording his first album in Marty Denson's recording studio. Jimmie Allen and Marty Denson have been close friends for nearly twenty years. Early in Jimmie's career, Marty played a significant role in teaching Jimmie the fundamentals of studio vocal recording, songwriting, and music production.



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