

DSU Music Program

Spring 2021 Newsletter - Volume 4 • Issue 2



Spring Music Program Events Schedule

- March 17 (Video Release): Faculty Showcase
- March 26 (Video Release): Student Performance Seminar
- March 30: Virtual Woodwind and Brass Day (Live on Zoom, 9:00-11:30 AM)
- April 8: BMG Music Zoom Lecture (Live on Zoom, 1:30 PM)
- April 9 (Video Release): Frank Gazda Virtual Faculty Recital
- April 15: BMG Music Zoom Lecture (Live on Zoom, 1:30 PM)
- April 16: Virtual Choir Festival (Live on Zoom, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM)
- April 17: Guest Clinician Dr. Sam Rowley - *Effective Score Study and Rehearsal Preparation Techniques* (Live on Zoom, 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM)
- April 19, 5:00 PM: Chloe Humphrey, voice, Junior Recital (Streamed and Recorded Live in the Art Center Gallery)
- April 19, 7:00 PM: Tyler Watson, flute, Senior Recital (Streamed and Recorded Live in the Art Center Gallery)
- April 21 & 22, 7:00 PM: Popular Music Ensemble Virtual Performances Premiere on our YouTube channel - [DelState_Music](#)
- April 23 (Video Release): Student Performance Seminar
- April 26, 5:00 PM: Kamin Clark, bass, Junior Recital (Streamed and Recorded Live in the Art Center Gallery)
- April 26, 7:00 PM: Jaden Adkins, tuba and bass, Junior Recital (Streamed and Recorded Live in the Art Center Gallery)
- April 29 (Video Release): Virtual Choir Performance

Welcome New Faculty

The Delaware State University Music Program is thrilled to welcome new Adjunct Associate Professor of Music, Dr. Brian Levels to the faculty. Dr. Levels teaches applied woodwinds and Woodwind Techniques and Methods.

Dr. Levels is an accomplished national and international multiple woodwind specialist. A native of Texas, Brian earned a Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts in multiple woodwind performance from the University of North Texas. His national and international touring experience includes performances with *42nd Street*, *Aida*, *Hairspray*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Legally Blonde*. Local experience includes performing with the Grammy Nominated University of North Texas Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony, Paradigm Orchestra, Lyric Stage Orchestra, and Broadway tours of *Porgy and Bess* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

Dr. Levels has performed with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, The New Philharmonic at the Kaneko Center, Opera Omaha, Omaha Symphonic Winds, Creighton University, The Hudson Chorale, and the Colour of Music Festival Orchestra. He has served on the music faculties at the Omaha Conservatory of Music, Peru State College, and The University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. Levels is a freelance musician and teacher in New York City, currently teaching at Friends Seminary and Delaware State University.



Upcoming Events

The Music Education program is hosting Dr. Sam Rowley in a session titled Effective Score Study and Rehearsal Preparation Techniques. This session will speak to both vocal and instrumental education and how recruitment in 6th grade through collegiate level ensembles is linked to prepared conductors/educators. It is being held on Saturday April 17th from 1:00-2:15pm. Dr. Rowley is an accomplished musician with more than 16 years of teaching student musicians valued instrumental techniques. He is a leader with a history of applying research, education, and experience in student instruction and is experienced performing in a variety of functions as a music educator, conductor, and trumpet soloist. Dr. Rowley holds a Doctorate of Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY, a Master of Music Education from the University of Illinois, and a Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree from Florida A and M University. He is the Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, TX and formerly Assistant Professor of Music Education/Track Coordinator of Graduate Music Education at Florida A&M University.



PARTICIPANTS ZOOM LINK: <https://teacherscollege.zoom.us/j/95868186969>

DELAWARE MUSIC EDUCATORS: Teachers who would like to earn clock hours for this event should register through PDMS (Course #29511 / Section #56316).

DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY VIRTUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

On Friday, April 16, Dr. Derrick Thompson will be hosting the Delaware State University Virtual Choir Festival. Singers will come together to learn music under the direction of Dr. Thompson and his special guests. All participants will then produce a virtual performance! The event is free and open to all. To participate, follow the links below.

Registration Link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHdHOvRZmienMKSGrUJ9rXXxL7miaErdr5KNYHakxc7L2-CA/viewform>

Sheet Music: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kAd1Zf0jFtgc5w2_McmwhYaTig-9wFM2/view?usp=drivesdk

Sheet Music Notes: https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Jf6YE1hj0rle4sTDIzP9ic_305thkdi/view?usp=drivesdk

10:00 - 10:05 Welcome and Introduction

10:05 - 10:15 Warm-Ups: Dr. Derrick Thompson

10:15 - 11:00 Sectionals

11:00 - 11:15 Record Repertoire using Upbeat

11:15 - 11:30 Guest Performance

11:30 - 11:35 Video Premiere

Sectionals:



Soprano - Dr. Lauren Conrad

Lauren Elizabeth Conrad, is the Education Associate of Visual and Performing Arts for the Delaware Department of Education and is an active soloist in the area. Recently she appeared as a soloist for Northern Delaware Oratorio Society, the Bach St. Matthew Passion and the University of Delaware's Performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass. Ms. Conrad is a member of the Christ Church Christiana Hundred all-professional choir where she has worked under the baton of world renown composers and conductors including Sir David Willcocks, John Rutter, Sir Philip Ledger, James O'Donnell, Andrew Lumsden, and most recently Christopher Robinson. She studied voice with Dr. Melanie DeMent during her tenure at the

University of Delaware and went on to study with Ruth Drucker of Peabody Conservatory.



Alto - Mr. Augustine Mercante, Delaware State University, Adjunct Voice Faculty,

Described by The New York Times as a "glowing countertenor", Augustine Mercante enjoys an active career performing repertoire from the Baroque to the newly-created. He has performed with the American Spiritual Ensemble, the Oregon Bach Festival, Brandywine Baroque, the MidColumbia Symphony, and Delaware ChoralArts. Last year he premiered Aaron Grad's Old-Fashioned Love Songs for countertenor and electric theorbo and was praised by the Washington Post for his "full-bodied sweetness, exemplary pitch, and a reliably musical imagination." As a 2013 Vocal Fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center, his

performance in the American premiere of George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* was described by the Wall Street Journal as "riveting" with a voice that "soared above the texture, lining the text with the haloed elegance of gold-leaf 2 inscription". A 2010 Fulbright Scholar, Gus completed post-graduate studies in Augsburg, Germany. In addition to his artist diploma, he holds degrees from the University of North Texas and the University of Delaware.



Tenor - Dr. James Wilson, Wesley College Director of Choral Activities

Dr. James Wilson directs the Wesley College Choir, the Kent Chamber Choir, and the Delaware Choral Society. Recent performances with DCS have included Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Haydn's *The Creation*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and Handel's *Messiah*. Recent performances with KCC, Kent County's premiere chamber ensemble, have included Bach's *Christ Lag in Todesbanden*, Charpentier's *Missa de Minuit pour Noël*, Herbert Howells' *Requiem*, and Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*. Wilson has conducted a large

number of other masterworks with a variety of ensembles from across the U.S. including the Kensington Consort of North Carolina, the University of Nebraska Chamber Singers and East Campus Choir, and the Boston University Choral Society. As a baritone soloist Wilson has performed with Brandywine Baroque, Melomanié, the Manchester Choral Society of New Hampshire, the Braintree Choral Society, the Masterworks Chorale of Boston, The Marsh Chapel Choir at Boston University, the Choral Society of Greensboro, North Carolina and the Voices of Omaha, Nebraska.



Bass - Dr. Derrick Thompson, Delaware State University, Director of Choral Activities

Dr. Derrick L. Thompson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with an emphasis in vocal music education from Lynchburg College, a Master of Arts degree in music from Morgan State University, a Master of Education in Music and Music Education and a Doctor of Education in the College Teaching of Music and Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Thompson made his professional vocal debut in 2007 with the Opera on the James as the Duke in Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, and he is an active recitalist, chamber musician, and operatic performer. Dr. Thompson spent his 2010-2011 season as the artistic director and conductor of the Tianjin Concert Hall's Mulan Children's Choir (China) and also made his debut as a soloist with the International Festival Chorus (Beijing) and Peking Sinfonetta in Handel's *Messiah*. In May 2014, Dr. Thompson recorded his first CD titled 'Spirituals' including selections by composers such as Harry T. Burleigh, Moses Hogan and Jacqueline Hairston. He most recently served as director of choirs at Staunton River Middle and High School with the Bedford County Public School system and Minister of Music with the Mt. Olive Baptist Church - Amherst.

WOODWIND AND BRASS DAY

On Tuesday, March 30 starting at 9:00 AM the Delaware State University Music Program will host our 2021 Virtual Woodwind and Brass Day. This event is free and open to students and community members of all ages and skill levels. Please join DSU's faculty members Dr. Frank Gazda, Dr. Patrick Hoffman, and Dr. Brian Levels in masterclasses, clinics, and virtual performances

Register at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eMBa9ahTaiPCWTcQYBQdpV5PmISdsKu3GF8X-cCXa5A/edit>

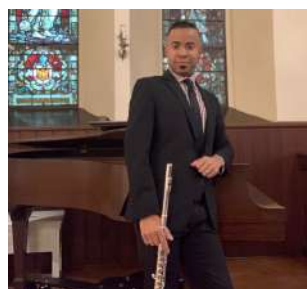
Follow this link for the zoom session on March 30.

<https://zoom.us/j/99263397725?pwd=RFF4OHY0dU02NE5KVm9yUTRqM1VZZz09>

Frank Gazda is Professor of Low Brass at Delaware State University. He has performed with, among others, the Delaware Symphony, the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, the Sioux City (IA) Symphony Orchestra and Brass Quintet, and the Maryland Symphony Orchestra and Brass Quintet. He has also performed at the International Trombone Festival, and with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, the Washington Trombone Ensemble and The Supremes. Dr. Gazda received his Bachelor degree in Music Education from Shenandoah Conservatory, his Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music, and his Doctorate in trombone performance and literature from the University of Maryland.



Dr. Patrick Hoffman completed the degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Illinois. He followed his dream to make music more than a hobby by earning a Masters degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Georgia in Athens Georgia. As Professor of Music at Delaware State University, Dr. Hoffman teaches Applied Trumpet and is Director of Brass Ensembles. Prior to his appointment at DSU, he held a similar position at Minot State University in Minot, North Dakota. Before he began teaching, Dr. Hoffman lived in Hof, Germany where he performed as a member of the Rekkenze Brass Quintet and as Assistant Principal Trumpet of the Hof Symphony. With Rekkenze, he toured Europe and the United States, and recorded the CD "Puppet Dances."



Brian E. Levels is an accomplished national and international multiple woodwind specialist. A native of Texas, Brian earned a Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts in multiple woodwind performance from the University of North Texas. His national and international touring experience includes performances with 42nd Street, Aida, Hairspray, Ain't Misbehavin' and Legally Blonde. Local experience includes performing with the Grammy Nominated University of North Texas Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony, Paradigm Orchestra, Lyric Stage Orchestra, and Broadway tours of Porgy and Bess and Phantom of the Opera. Dr. Levels has performed with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, The New Philharmonic at the Kaneko Center, Opera Omaha, Omaha Symphonic Winds, Creighton University, The Hudson Chorale, and the Colour of Music Festival Orchestra. He has served on the music faculties at the Omaha Conservatory of Music, Peru State College, and The University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. Levels is a freelance musician and teacher in New York City, currently teaching at Friends Seminary and Delaware State University. His primary teachers include: flute, Mary Karen Clardy; clarinet, Richard Shanley, James Gillespie, and John Scott; saxophone, Eric Nestler; oboe, Charles Veazey and James Ryon; bassoon, Kathleen Reynolds.

Partnership with BMG Music

After the great success of the Zoom lecture held for the DSU Music Industry Program by BMG Music on October 15, 2020, the major music conglomerate will be returning to DSU for two more zoom lectures on April 8th & 15th at 1:30 pm.

Alumni News

Juanita M. Clendaniel holds two Bachelor of Science degrees from Delaware State University Business Administration, '82 and Music Education, '85. She is currently a music teacher at Richard Shields Elementary in the Cape Henlopen School District. Her new book, "*The Tortoise Effect: making progress in spite of pain*" was released on February 16, 2021. The book was ranked #1 on Amazon as a Hot New Release in the Pain Management category on February 27, 2021. In this, Ms. Clendaniel shares how she came through her lifelong struggle with chronic pain and the startling discovery she learned while in her 40s about the root cause. While her physical body had limitations, she rose above them to live a joyful and fulfilled life. In the book, she shares strategies to help guide anyone through their season of pain, and show how to live free from the fears that often come with it.

https://www.amazon.com/Tortoise-Effect-Juanita-M-Clendaniel/dp/1735588326/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+tortoise+effect&qid=1615251200&s=books&sr=1-1



A special thank you to Von Morgan (BA in Music Education, 2016) for substantial donations of materials to the Music Education program. Von also participated in the new music program informational video.

Faculty News

It has been a year of developing foundations and long-term agendas for Dr. Carla Becker. Having had several conferences cancelled this past year, Dr. Becker will be attending virtual conferences this coming summer. In 2020 she won a "Modern Band" fellowship and will be acquiring instruments and attending workshops during the summer of 2021. She is presenting at the Popular Music Education Conference in June, 2021 in Chicago, IL. In the midst of on-line learning, she has been actively seeking more engaging ways to teach through the use of Collabra, Tik Tok, Screencastomatic, and Picktochart.

Adjunct Associate Professor of Woodwinds Dr. Brian Levels is presenting a virtual Presentation/Masterclass titled *Multiple Flute Voices/Instrument Options Used in Today's Orchestration* as part of the Alumni Series for the University of North Texas Flute Studio of Dr. Mary Karen Clardy. The session is scheduled for April 9, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Interim Band Director Jovan Wilson was just named the Director of Bands for the D.F.R.C. Blue-Gold All-Star Marching Band. He also placed 5th out of 70 entries in the Arrangers Punch Challenge (a challenge which encompasses arrangers and directors from other HBCUs across the U.S.)

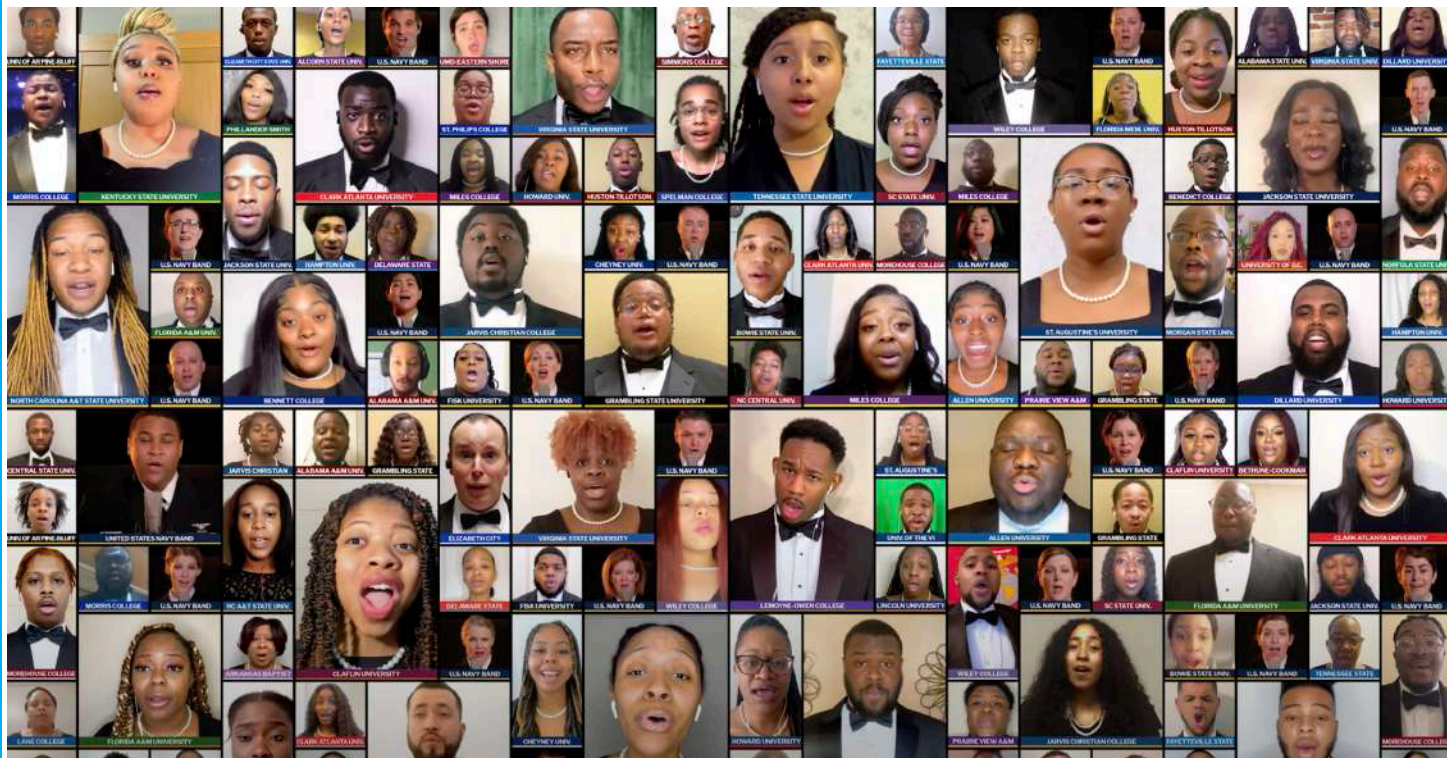
General News

Junior BA in Music major Chloe F. Humphrey sang the National Anthem at the January 19 Delaware farewell event in Wilmington for Joe Biden - the day before he was inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States and the first-ever Chief Executive of the nation to come from the First State.



To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the U.S. national anthem, the HBCU National Choir, the nation's first and ONLY national choir for Historically Black Colleges & Universities joined forces with the U.S. Navy Band for a virtual recording of our national anthem. The recording features 128 voices from HBCUs all across the nation with members of the Navy Band. DSU Concert Choir members Chloe Humphrey and Nayelah Harris, both students of Dr. Derrick Thompson, were honored to participate. Follow the link to view the wonderful performance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lm5Mdn3MRro>



Band News

The Approaching Storm Drumline (The Eye of the Storm) placed 2nd out of 9 HBCU Drumlines in the Alfred Street Baptist Church's first-ever HBCU Festival Drumline Competition! They were awarded \$2000.

In March, The Approaching Storm Band will be featured in the 56th Anniversary of the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee Virtual Presentation.

The Approaching Storm will be releasing many new video projects which feature the different sections of the band. Video releases include: in March: Black Lives Matter! E.O.S. performs Childish Gambino's *This Is America*; Sweet 16 Flag Guard Presentation; D'Elegance Presentation. In April: Approaching Storm Repertoire Chronicles and Spring Presentation Concert (April 30th). In May: *Building our Culture, Bridging Our Legacy: The History of the Approaching Storm* documentary

Follow The Approaching Storm On Social Media!
 Youtube: The Approaching Storm Marching Band
 Instagram: @dsuapproachingstorm@yahoo.com

Contact Us

Visit us online at:

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

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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

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