A Message from the Head

Welcome to our winter 2021 newsletter! The U of S Department of Music was established in 1931, the first of its kind in Western Canada. Since its founding our department has continually played a critical role in building and advancing the cultural capital of our university, city, and province all while educating the next generation of musicians and music educators at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

This newsletter is intended to give the reader a glimpse into what we've been up to since our Spring 2020 newsletter.

Our faculty and sessionals continue to work diligently within our community and beyond to enlighten, educate, and connect people to one another and to themselves through music. Our CoVid-induced social isolation has reminded us all that we need music and the arts in our lives collectively and individually… of that there is no question.

For more on my own thoughts about the importance of building our cultural capital please visit this page.

Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the U of S faculty, staff, and most importantly students, who have shown so much dedication, professionalism and resolve during the global pandemic.

I feel so very proud and privileged to be a member of our departmental community.

Stay safe and wash your hands!

Dean McNeill
Head, Department of Music
Become a USask Music Student

Imagine Yourself Here
The U of S remains a vibrant place to study music even during CoVid-19! B.Mus. & M.Mus. audition dates are January 30, March 6, April 17, 2021. For more information on how to audition for our department contact Department of Music Auditions Coordinator Allison Fairbairn or visit the Music Department website and click on "Become A Student".


…Did you know we award annually over $100,000 in Dept. of Music-specific scholarships!

On January 30, 2021 we will begin our music scholarships deliberations so you might want to audition then! Entrance into the Dept. of Music however will remain open until our quota is filled so reach out to us anytime if you want to become a member of our departmental community!

USask Music Educators Society (USMES) video welcome.

Faculty Updates
Kaplan Chair in Strings faculty member Dr. Véronique Mathieu has released a new album featuring works by Bacri, Boulanger, Debussy and Poulenc on PARMA records with pianist Jasmin Arakawa. The album was featured on CBC’s Summer 2020 guide (i.e. 22 albums you need to hear!) For more information.

This CD was reviewed in the UK Gramophone and won the best albums and artist in the 2020 issue.
The 2021 National Youth Band of Canada named Dr. Oehlerking the conductor for the upcoming year. Unfortunately, the group will not be able to meet in person due to COVID-19. The ensemble will investigate virtual possibilities to engage highly talented musicians from across Canada. The group has asked Dr. Oehlerking to be their conductor when the band is allowed to meet in person again.

For more information visit: [https://www.canadianband.org](https://www.canadianband.org)

Professor Kathleen Solose has released a new CD of Piano Sonatas by Viennese composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold on the ArielArts label. The CD will be released on CDBaby and associated digital media sites by December 11. Links to previews and downloads will be available on this site: [https://kathleensolose.hearnow.com](https://kathleensolose.hearnow.com). Physical CD’s also available by contacting kathleen.solose@usask.ca.

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The launch of the Routledge Companion book series from the SSHRC-funded project “Advanced Interdisciplinary Research in Singing” features three chapters by U of S faculty member Dr. Jennifer Lang on her work with intergenerational choirs.

Dean McNeill performed lead trumpet within the Regina Jazz Society’s Saskatchewan Suite CD/DVD project. This 60 minute 8 movement composed by Fred Stride was designed to commemorate the history of Saskatchewan as expressed through the large jazz orchestra idiom specifically. It was premiered this fall within the pan-Canadian virtual jazz festival series. This recording included some of Saskatchewan’s most notable jazz musicians including (saxes) PJ Perry, Donny Kennedy, Kelly Jefferson, Steve Kaldestad, Trent Reschyn, (trumpets) Dean McNeill, Andy King, Dave Mossing, Al Muirhead, Brent Ghiglione, (guitar) Jack Semple, (percussion) Dylan Wiest, (trombones) Shawn Grocott, Tom Richards, Ross Ulmer, Dave Dick, (bass) Miles Hill, (drums) Ted Warren, Ed Minevich (violin), and (piano) Jon Ballantyne.
In December of 2020 Dean McNeill premiered Tusen Tankar with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra composed by 3 time Juno Award winner David Braid.

Dr. Amanda Lalonde was awarded a SSHRC Explore Grant to research the career and compositions of the 19th-century pianist and composer Delphine von Schauroth. Schauroth was a dazzling performer who was ranked alongside Liszt and Mendelssohn and whose compositions were admired by Schumann, but she is mostly forgotten today. Dr. Lalonde is assisted in this project by student researchers Esteban Mendoza, Kennedy Kosheluk, and Graeme Dyck.

L-R: Delphine von Schauroth, Dr. Amanda Lalonde

Onwards and Upwards!

We are so very proud of our music students and alumni and the good in the world that they are collectively doing. Here is a brief glimpse into the lives of some of our outstanding graduates… Studying music really does help people ‘go anywhere’.

B.Mus. (honors) tenor Michael Friesen will graduated in the Fall 2020. Michael won the U of S University Medal In The Fine Arts Award. Congratulations Michael. A featured article on Michael can be found here.
B.Mus. 2019 Grad bass trombonist **Spencer Krips** presented an ecomusicology research paper at S.U.R.E. (i.e. Student Undergraduate Research Experience 2020 Summer Research Symposium). Spencer’s paper won 2nd place in the overall conference ranking.

To learn more about ecomusicology view this [conference presentation](#).

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B.Mus. violinist **Drusilla Waltz** was awarded the Florence E. Bennee Fine Arts Undergraduate Scholarship from the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Saskatoon Community Foundation’s Whit Fior scholarship. Dru is in her 3rd year B.Mus.Ed. program at the U of S where is studying with Dr. Véronique Mathieu.

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**L J Thuringer** currently lives in London, England, where they oversee grants management for the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy project, a unique initiative of 14 serving world leaders building momentum towards a sustainable ocean economy. Prior to this role, they were involved in anti-child trafficking efforts in Ghana’s fishing industry at Challenging Heights, a local non-profit. In 2021, they will begin a master’s programme at SOAS University of London in Migration, Mobility and Development Studies. In their spare time, they enjoy playing ice hockey, soaking in London’s vibrant arts scene, (successfully) attempting delicious new dishes and (less successfully) cultivating a growing plant collection.
Gerard Weber completed a B.Mus. at the U of S in 2013 and a M.Mus. at the University of Florida in 2015. Gerard is currently based in Saskatoon as a performer and educator. In Saskatoon, Gerard has been involved with a number of musical organizations and events, including the Fireside Singers’ productions of Les Misérables, The Wizard of Oz, and Evita, The Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra, the North Saskatchewan Wind Symphony, the Strata Festival (https://stratafest.com/), and the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival. Gerard’s most recent project, the Gerard Weber Group, focuses on the music of jazz guitarist Pat Metheny and original works inspired by electronic manipulation of acoustic instruments. In the fall of 2020, Gerard began studies at the University of Western Ontario in the PhD in Musicology program. His research interests include Medieval and Renaissance music rhetoric, notation, performance, and analysis, as well as 20th and 21st-century music and aesthetics.

After graduating with a B.Mus. and B.Ed. from the U of S in 2011 flutist Meaghan Haughian moved to Limerick Ireland where she completed a MA in Ethnomusicology in 2018. Meaghan is currently teaching at a private music school in Limerick (piano, guitar, whistle, Irish flute, theory, Irish language choir—the subject of her thesis—and Irish language). She is playing flute with the Irish Symphonic Wind Orchestra and serves as the Assistant Conductor of the Boherbuoy Brass and Reed Band.

After completing degrees in music at the USask (B.Mus. 2017) and UBC (Mc.Mus. 2019), Silas Friesen returned to Saskatoon to work as a freelance performer, composer, and trumpet teacher. When the pandemic shut down most of his musical projects last spring, he turned to online collaboration as a medium and outlet. Conversations with fellow USask alumni and local jazz musicians led to the creation of the Silas Friesen Virtual Jazz Orchestra, bringing together friends from across Western Canada to record his Saskatoon Suite: The Waking, Can’t Help Falling in Love, and Drifters (work still in process). Silas has collaborated with UBC colleagues creating the Cross Canada Brass which has virtually recorded and released Eric Ewazen’s Symphony in Brass. In addition to similar projects with his family’s Friesen Studios, Saskatoon’s Gerard Weber Group, Edmonton-based ISO Brass and others, Silas has become sought after as a digital performance consultant presenting workshops and producing videos for other groups, including work contracted through Austin Kruzcek of Jazz Lesson Videos. He recently relocated to Toronto with his family and is studying theology at Tyndale University.
**Sarah Suchan** received her combined Bachelors of Education and Music Education degrees in 2014 from the University of Saskatchewan. Sarah studied saxophone under the tutelage of Dr. Glen Gillis and participated in the University Wind Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Saxophone Choir.

After graduating Sarah began teaching band, jazz band, and general music at École canadienne-française Pavillon Gustave-Dubois, where she taught for four years. She recently completed her Masters degree in Music Education at Brandon University under the direction of Dr. Sheelagh Chadwick. Her thesis focused on developing a better understanding of her personal approaches to teaching improvisation for high school students. Sarah currently lives in Saskatoon and is teaching music with the Saskatoon Public School Division.

Sarah’s master’s thesis can be viewed [here](#).

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**Aaron Bueckert** was appointed Principal Trumpet of the Saskatoon Symphony for the 2020-2021 season. Born and raised in Saskatoon Arron graduated with a M.Mus. in performance trumpet from the U of S and he earned a B.Mus. from Wilfrid Laurier University. Aaron has performed all over our city and province with such groups as the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra, the Saskatoon Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Fireside Singers. During the global pandemic Aaron has been focusing on generating www video performances of brass arrangements and performing live within the SSO.

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**Samantha Ranger** (nee Stewart) was recently featured in an article in the Regina Leader-Post/Saskatoon Star-Phoenix. Samantha is teaching band in the Regina Catholic School Division, and the article highlights her innovative ways of delivering music education in our current COVID-a9 reality.

You can access the article [here](#).
Curriculum Renewal and Rejuvenation

Curriculum renewal and rejuvenation is an ongoing process that our faculty continually works hard at to ensure our degrees remain vibrant and relevant. Here is a list of our current degree and certificate programs including notes about what curricular revisions were recently approved for implementation in the Fall of 2021!

### Our Undergraduate Degree Revisions

- Bachelor of Arts Three-year (B.A. Three-year) - Music
- Bachelor of Arts Four-year (B.A. Four-year) - Music
- Bachelor of Arts Honours (B.A. Honours) - Music
- Bachelor of Music Individualized (B.Mus. Individualized)
- Bachelor of Music Performance Honours (B.Mus. Performance Honours)
- Bachelor of Music Honours (Music Education) (B.Mus.(Mus.Ed.)) - Early/Middle Years
- Bachelor of Music Honours (Music Education) (B.Mus.(Mus.Ed.)) - Secondary
- Bachelor of Music (Music Education) (B.Mus.(Mus.Ed.)) - Early/Middle Years
- Bachelor of Music (Music Education) (B.Mus.(Mus.Ed.)) - Secondary
- Jazz Certificate

The below degree revisions apply to most of the above B.Mus. degrees. See specific degree requirements for exact details.

1. All B.Mus. degrees now share a common 1st year with students entering specific B.Mus. degrees at the end of their 1st year (e.g. B.Mus. Individualized, B.Mus. Performance Honors, B.Mus. Music Education).
2. 3rd and 4th year applied lessons are now separated into two streams that include:
   - *B.Mus. Performance majors (60 minute 4th year recital).

*Both streams still include 4 years of 60-minute applied lessons.

3. Course-specific degree modifications within B.Mus. degrees:
   - MUS 115.3 Introduction to Music Education now added as a required course for all B.Mus. degrees.
   - MUS 180.0 Introduction to Library Research Methods no longer required in any degree with related course content imbedded into MUS 155.3 and 156.3. This is to increase relevancy and retention of related subject matter.
   - MUS 175.3 Jazz History can now count as a music elective in most B.Mus. degrees.
   - MUS 201.1 Jazz Capstone course number changed to MUS 401.1 Jazz Capstone.
   - MUS 453.3 Seminar in Choral Literature and Materials now counts as a musicology elective in most B.Mus. degrees.
   - MUS 463.3 Seminar in Wind Literature and Materials now counts as a musicology elective in most B.Mus. degrees.
   - MUS 386.3 Jazz Arranging can now count as a theory elective in most B.Mus. degrees.

### Our Graduate Degree Revisions

M.Mus. Performance:

1. Conducting (Choral) & Conducting (Instrumental) streams added into M.Mus. Performance degree.
2. Reduced M.Mus. degree requirements from 2 recitals to 1 recital for all streams (i.e. conducting, strings, brass, woodwinds, voice, piano, percussion).
3. Second language required only for voice majors.
4. Increased elective space by 3 CUs (to 12 CUs).
5. Allows for up to 6 CUs of selected upper-year undergraduate music electives to count within the M.Mus. performance degree (as approved by the student's graduate committee).

Our department awards over $100,000 annually in department-specific scholarships, bursaries, GTFs and/or TAs.
Virtual Coffee Talks with Lindsay “Eekwol” Knight:
University Library’s Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence
Join Lindsay “Eekwol” Knight via zoom to learn more about her experience with hip-hop music and culture, as well as lyric writing tips. She will focus on her Indigenous identity and its influence on all of her creative work. More info click here.

Music and Wellbeing Conference 2021
with Keynote Speaker Dr. Daniel Levitin
Mark May 28 – 29, 2021 on your calendar for the Music and Wellbeing Conference. Given the current climate of mental and physical uncertainty and unrest, this conference intends to unite researchers, community partners, educators, university students, and healthcare providers to explore and examine music and health intersections and facilitate knowledge mobilization of music’s role and relevance in our lives during the best of times and worst of times. More information can be found here.

Gary Gullickson to Receive Order of Canada
Retired Music professor and one-time department head Gary Gullickson will receive the Order of Canada for his dedication to Saskatoon’s music community. Congratulations! Read more here.
Gary Gullickson has 44 years’ experience as a teacher, arts consultant and education administrator. He has been extensively involved in community service and leadership, with long-term involvement in the arts sector of Saskatchewan. Before retirement, he was a professor of music and music education at the University of Saskatchewan, and he served as Head of the Department of Music from 1997-99. He has been a member of the University of Saskatchewan Senate for nine years, and has also been a member of the Board of Directors for SaskCulture (2005-10). He is a past member of the Saskatoon Symphony Board of Directors and past president of the Saskatchewan Choral Federation.
In addition to receiving the Order of Canada, he was Saskatoon’s Citizen of the Year in 1980, and received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association in 2005 and from the Saskatchewan Choral Federation in 2000.

Kaplan Collection:
A Musical Journey Around the World
David Kaplan, the late Music professor and Order of Canada recipient, didn’t just travel the world – he brought the instruments of the world back to Saskatoon. Read more here.

USask Department of Music January-April 2021 Special Event Dates and Activities
All of the below dates will occur virtually on Wednesday at 12:30 PM
Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 895 7933 9284 Passcode: 908281
January 13 effective virtual use of USask library: A discussion with Carolyn Doi
January 27, 2021: Glen Gillis & Colleagues: FARLS
February 3, 2021: Preparing program notes for recitals discussion with Carolyn Doi
February 10, 2021: Dean McNell & Richard Carnegie: Faculty and Friends
February 24, 2021: Darrin Oehlerking & Colleagues: Faculty and Friends
March 3, 2021: Kathleen Solose & Elixir: Faculty and Friends
Date TBA: Jennifer Lang and Rebecca Dale: (tentative) FARLS
Date TBA: FARLS
Music & Well-being Virtual Conference: May 28 & 29, 2021
Our department has risen to the challenge in a variety of ways of offering music classes during the global pandemic. First and foremost we’ve done our very best to offer the highest quality education possible to our students under the CoVid-19 circumstances.

As a department we have contributed to online education and information forums organized by the Saskatchewan Band Association, Saskatchewan Music Conference, Saskatchewan Choral Federation, and Saskatchewan Music Educator’s Association.

Our faculty have held virtual sessions for our students and community members alike and we’ve lead countrywide discussions with our partners at other universities about exploring best practices as a university music department during the global pandemic.

Here are some of the things that we’ve been up to in this regard:

**Music Education in Action Series (MEAS)** is an outreach initiative within the Department of Music for Music Education students, educators and musicians to collectively explore various music education contexts. MEIAS generally hosts one workshop per term and invite students from all over the campus, teachers, and community members to experience intersections of music education as they occur in schools, communities, and beyond.

To address our current situation, MEAS series has transferred to an online platform to address technology as it relates to the context of teaching and learning music in remote form.

Dr. Darrin Oehlerking has recently found a new creative outlet to share his musical ideas and appetites – Community Radio. Dr. Oehlerking has recently hosted some radio shows on CFCR, Swing Shift and Classical Connection. The radio station has asked him to be a regular, rotating host, and he has enjoyed programming jazz and classical programming for the station. As the Department of Music’s resident “band geek” – he is thrilled to share a lot of wind music on Classical Connection – a genre that is not often highlighted on traditional classical music programming.

At the end of August, Dr. Darrin Oehlerking invited numerous Wind Orchestra alumni to gather for a wind band “reading session.” The session took place safely distanced, and outdoors at Nutana Kiwanis Park in Saskatoon. This group was dubbed The Saskatchewan Winds, and they read through works by Grainger, O’Neill, Suchan and others.

The response from the musicians, and the audience (the group nestled itself in the shadow of a senior’s residence in the park) was extremely positive. So positive, in fact, that the group assembled again a few weeks later to read through even more music.

Now that the snow has settled in, playing outside is not a viable option. But this new group will continue to investigate how to play music together safely.
Adversity Meets Resilience on CFCR Radio is a 6 part mini-series in which Dean McNeill is in conversation with Award-winning SK. Historian Dr. Bill Waiser. Dean and Bill talk about past adversities in Saskatchewan and how we overcame them. As you might imagine music plays a role in this story. Listen to all 6 episodes.

This is Mus

In an effort to foster an ongoing sense of community and communal music learning this fall during the pandemic, the U of S Dept. of Music curated a virtual guest lecture series entitled This Is Mus. With this weekly virtual series we offered 3 Fine Arts Research Lecture Series lectures, 4 Faculty & Friends virtual concerts and 3 special presentations. Here is a list of what we shared with our community this fall:

**Special Presentation**

Jennifer McAllister
“A Musician’s Wellbeing”

Jennifer McAllister complete her thesis, Health in Wind: Band Participation as a Health Promoting Activity for Older Men and received a Master of Education degree in School and Counselling Psychology from the University of Saskatchewan. Jennifer has a strong interest in the lifelong benefits of playing music in ensembles with other people. She also hold a Bachelor of Music in flute performance from the University of Alberta, a Bachelor of Education from the University Saskatchewan, and a Master of Music in conducting from the University of North Texas where she studied under the guidance of Eugene Migliaro Corporon. Jennifer is an active flutist who performs regularly in the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and she is the creative force behind the symphony’s Time for Toddlers concert series. As a conductor she has worked with all ages across Canada and enjoyed many years of as a music educator in the schools. She is currently working as a Registered Psychologist for Saskatoon Public Schools.
Fall 2020 Virtual FARLS Series

David Braid: Do Rules Help or Hinder Originality?

Watch the lecture here.

Carolyn Christie & Allison Miller: Confidence, Motivation and Self Talk Management for Musicians

Read article here.

Tom Allen: The Being Lost Project

Being Lost is a project in mid development that will ultimately culminate in 15 spoken-word pieces of exactly 100 words each, mirroring Cage's account of his time at the University of Saskatchewan Kenderdine Campus at Emma Lake, Sask., in August of 1965. This project represents the 15 hours Cage was lost (overnight) in the woods while at this northern campus. These spoken-word pieces are about Cage's experience, but also about the general state of being lost, either literally, or, in a more spiritual and emotional sense, as might happen during, say, a pandemic—that the state of being lost is, in fact, much closer to the natural state of things, and that, as Cage learned, the secret is being able to accept that truth and carry on.

Each of these spoken-word pieces is linked with improvised music in installments of exactly three minutes each, making the total presentation 45 minutes long. Artistic collaborator Jeff Riely is working on a set of parameters for this improvised content: variation in pitch focus, density of music, volume, emotional tone and other aspects which will all be determined by chance—by rolling dice. In live performance we would perform these chance-determining calculations on the spot, so that the piece is different each time.

Tom Allen is a writer, storyteller, trombonist, lyricist, songwriter and the host of CBC Radio's Shift.

Related Tom Allen video Links:
https://tomtomallen.com/video-projects/beinglost/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no2CMR1bPmU&feature=emb_logo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2qRMPmdNs&feature=emb_title
Jeanette Gallant:
The Huron Carol: The Construction of a Canadian Cultural Icon

There is tremendous misunderstanding about The Huron Carol. Thus, the content and purpose of this talk is to explain that it has been used as a tool of religious conversion and of French nationalism; that there have been three different textual versions of this piece (Wendat, French, and English—all with little relationship to each other); and that the origins of the tune are not what we believe them to be. Armed with that knowledge, students/community members will be better able to assess if this piece might be suitable for future performances.

Read article here.

Vivian Luong:
Analysis as Ethics: Experimenting with Music Loving

In response to critiques of their work, music theorists often hail the virtues of analysis to defend our unique position in music studies. In addition to enriching musical experience and our sense of self, we say that music analysis matters because it involves inhabiting an "ethical attitude”—a concern with adequately caring for and understanding music on its own terms.

Dr. Luong’s FARLS explores this last argument for the merit of analysis. How is analysis ethical? How exactly does it do good? Elaborating on early feminist and queer music theory. She proposed that we can locate this ethical attitude in the very relationships that often animate analysis: music loving. Taking seriously this pervasive yet under-theorized concept. She discussed how we might rethink music loving to better articulate the good (or harmful) effects of music analysis.

Read article here.

Ingrid Stölzel:
Fine Arts Research Lecture in Music

This presentation is an interdisciplinary collaboration between American composer Dr. Ingrid Stölzel (DMA), Dr. Veronique Mathieu and Métis artist Leah Dorion. To One Beyond Seas is a chamber music work for violin, voice and piano composed by Stölzel, featuring the words of Mohawk Canadian writer Emily Pauline Johnson. The work is paired with images created by Dorion. The performers for this presentation are violinist Dr. Véronique Mathieu (DMus), soprano Sarah Tannehill Anderson and pianist Ellen Sommer. Stölzel and Dorion will discuss the work, the creation process, and the collaboration behind To One Beyond Seas.

Read article here.
Fall 2020 Dept. of Music Faculty & Friends virtual concert series

Links to concert descriptions:

https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5589/Faculty_and_Friends_Virtual_Concert
https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5541/Ingrid_St_Izel_and_Leah_Dorion_Fine_Arts_Research_Lecture_in
https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5591/Faculty_and_Friends_Virtual_Concert
https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5593/Faculty_and_Friends_Virtual_Concert

Wednesday, October 21, 12:30 pm
Performers: Dean McNeill (trumpet), Veronique Mathieu (violin), Bonnie Nicholson (piano), Kate Nachilobe (voice), Paul Suchan (piano), Emmett Fortosky (bass).
Music for voice, violin, trumpet, bass, and piano!

Wednesday, Nov. 25, 12:30 pm
This Faculty & Friends presentation highlighted the collaborative processes utilized by the Duo Gillis Cunningham (DGC) in the production of their 2020 album release Sonic Eclipse. The DGC, featuring Drs. Glen Gillis (alto saxophone, University of Saskatchewan) and James E. Cunningham (didgeridoo and electronics, Florida Atlantic University), has been composing and performing together for more than twenty years. Their music combines sounds from instruments, ancient and new, in contemporary electro-acoustic settings. Although the collaborative process has long been a staple of their original compositions, DGC has recently expanded their collaboration to include other sound artists and musicians such as DGC producer/recording engineer Matt Baltrucki (Hoot Wisdom Studios, Boca Raton, Florida), recording engineer Wayne Giesbrecht (Media Productions, University of Saskatchewan), and studio drummer and percussionist Satnam Ramgotra (free-lance and house musician for Hans Zimmer’s Remote Control Productions team, Hollywood, California). View the performance here.

Wednesday, December 2, 12:30 pm
French hornist Arlene Shiplett and pianist Jaya Hoy performed Allemende by Henry Purcell, a movement from a concerto for horn in D major (attributed to Franz Joseph Haydn but also thought to have actually been penned by Anton Rosetti), and an arrangement for horn of César Cui’s Perpetuum Mobile. Following that, Dr. Garry Gable and Kathy Lohrenz Gable performed a beloved 3-song cycle of Lieder set to poetry of Michelangelo Buonarroti by Austrian, Hugo Wolf, and then individual songs of Tom Lehrer, Cecil Dougherty, and Vincent Youmans.
Connection to Saskatoon Music Conference

This year the Saskatchewan Music Conference was held on a virtual platform and the University of Saskatchewan Department of Music was strongly represented as presenters in multiple sessions. This was the first year that a session was dedicated to student research perspectives and we had 4 current or alumni music students involved: Spencer Krips, Libbie Smith, Esteban Mendoza, and Jillian McLeod. Each presenter displayed a virtual poster of their research interests accompanied by an explanation and opportunity for audience questions. After a thorough peer-review process led by Dr. Jennifer Lang, these students were successfully invited to present at the Saskatchewan Music Conference based on the reviews from professors at other Canadian universities.

Jillian McLeod: *The Musical and Political Contributions of Helen May Butler*

Esteban Mendoza: *Protest Songs in Chile during the Social Explosion (2019-2020): “El Derecho de Vivir en Paz” and “El Baile de los que Sobran”*

Spencer Krips: *Why listen? A brief exploration of the history, purpose, and benefits of ecomusicology*

Libbie Smith: *Métis Fiddle Music: Going Beyond the Distinctive Sound*

A final session involving the U of S Music Department included faculty member Dr. Jennifer Lang who collaborated with Dr. Jeanette Gallant, Dr. Kevin Lewis (U of S faculty member in the College of Education), and the Greystone Singers on a project exploring the historical cultural context of the Canadian icon carol, the Huron Carol. Dr. Lang will be working with Dr. Gallant (from British Columbia) and Dr. Lewis (a local Indigenous facilitator and scholar) to further examine pathways that this carol can be grounded in local experiences and traditions as a step towards Reconciliation with the direction and recording of the project involving the Greystone Singers.

**Technical Assistance videos for teaching applied lessons remotely.**

Sept 9, 2020 CBC CBC TV’s *The National* included interviews of USask Department of Music alumni Alexis Korchinski and Justin Law welcoming students back to school.

That you for keeping the music education flame lite during CoVid!

View concert programs and guest lecture handouts visit our [departmental virtual bulletin board](#).

**Look, Listen, Reflect, & Inspire**

Here is list of some music projects that our faculty, students, and sessionals have been involved in this past summer and fall.

- Opera Nuova performance at U of S President’s Residence by Angela Gjurcanin (soprano), Jayden Burrown (tenor), Kathy Lohrenz Gable (piano): [Performance](#) | [Article](#)
- Floruit original composition by Dean McNeill
- Warrior Greystone Singers video
- *The Waking* commissioned by the U of S Jazz Ensemble
- Can’t Help Falling In Love arranged by B.Mus. grad Silas Friesen
- Dig Deeper composed by Indigenous actor Adam Beach as performed by U of S students and alumni
- The Value of the Performing Arts (advocacy video)
- View the Jazz Ensemble: Young Lions of Saskatoon (JEYLS) performance within the Canadian virtual jazz festival fall 2020 series

This ensemble is comprised almost entirely of U of S Department of Music alumni.

**Sessional Spotlight**

We are so very proud of our sessional teachers in our department. They bring an enormous amount of experience, talent, and energy to our department. Here is spotlight on a few of these remarkable musicians!
Allison Miller, Saskatoon born flutist, is the tenured Principal Flutist of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. She joined the U of S Sessional team in 2020 and she has appeared numerous times as both a Flutist and Piccoloist with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra.

Allison completed a Diploma of Music at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, studying with Richard Volet. She went on to complete both a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music specializing in Music Performance at the University of Ottawa, studying with Camille Churchfield.

Allison has participated in international tours to Portugal, Germany and Scotland as well as the Canadian Edges of Canada coast to coast tour. Allison spent summers studying with William Bennet (WIBB) and Lorna McGhee at the PiFR international festival off the coast of Vancouver and has attended the Domaine Forget International Music Academy and the Orford Music Academy.

Allison won the Payne-Lyon Prize for Excellence in Flute from NYO Canada and has been heard on CBC and BBC Radio broadcasts as Principal Flute of NYO Canada.

Dawn McLean Belyk is currently the Bass Trombonist with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra, the University of Saskatchewan Brass Quintet and the Saskatchewan Brass Quintet. She also teaches Low Brass at the University of Saskatchewan, both undergrad and grad students. Active as a Low Brass Specialist, she has a growing studio at home, and teaches clinics throughout the province. Dawn has adjudicated bands in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and has received the Dwaine Nelson Award for Teaching Excellence at the U of S, the Saskatoon Preschool Foundation Champion of Children Award in 2009, and in 2013 she received the Saskatchewan Band Association Distinguished Band Director Award. Dawn teaches applied lessons at the graduate and undergraduate levels at the USask.

The USask DoM lecturer & conductor Shah Sadikov enjoyed a collaboration with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra on November 23rd, 2020 with Saskatchewan premieres of Marianna Martines’ Sinfonia in C and Brahms’ Haydn Variations (new orchestration). Sadikov has appeared as a conductor, soloist, and principal violist with the National Symphony Orchestra and the National Radio Chamber Orchestra of Uzbekistan. He also conducted ensembles such as the Tokyo Philharmonic, Aspen Festival Orchestra, Aspen Chamber Symphony, Berlin Sinfonietta, Kazakh State Philharmonic, Kansas City Civic Orchestra, Kansas Wesleyan Chamber Orchestra, Medomak Symphony Orchestra, Taldykoran Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra “Turkiston” and newEar Contemporary Ensemble among others.

Upcoming engagements include an invitation to conduct the Shenyang Symphony in China, Orquestra Sinfonica de Piracicaba in Brazil, Taldykoran Philharmonic Orchestra and Kostanay Philharmonic Orchestras in Kazakhstan. Returning engagements with the National Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra “Turkiston” in Uzbekistan, as well as an opera debut at the State Academic Bolshoi Theater conducting Donizetti’s Lucia de Lammermoor.
Gone But Not Forgotten

The USask and Saskatoon’s musical community in general lost a true leader & genuine beautiful soul who was beloved by all. Long time USask sessional instructor and Principle Flutist of the SSO Randi Nelson passed away on July 5, 2020 at the age of 65 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Randi passed peacefully at home in the arms of her loving family.

Randi was born September 23, 1954 in Minot, North Dakota to Dwaine and Lois Nelson.

She grew up in a large family with five brothers and followed in her parents’ musical footsteps. In 1978, she graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

From an early age Randi’s musical gifts were evident. Having first performed with the Saskatoon Symphony at the age of 14, she enjoyed a long and fulfilling association of over forty years with the orchestra as principal flute and artist in residence. She served as flute instructor at the University of Saskatchewan for more than thirty years. Her students will be heard in concert halls and high school music programs for many years to come.

Randi met Terry Sturge in 1986 when Terry moved to Saskatoon to play in the symphony. They were married in August of 1987 and their first child, Christopher came along in 1988 and Kathleen, their daughter, three years later in 1991.

Randi balanced a demanding career as a professional musician and flute teacher with the home life of a loving mother and wife. Randi loved to teach; she was always mindful of her father (i.e. Dwaine Nelson) lessons when leading a student from the unknown to the known.

As a flutist, Randi had a magical touch for turning a phrase just so. Her sound was unique and captivating. She was adored by her students, held in high esteem by her colleagues and friends, and indeed by everyone whose life she touched.

Randi was a prairie girl. She kept the famous quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, “nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing” pinned to her board in her studio. She said she learned something from every conductor for whom she played.

Apart from her family, music and teaching, Randi’s greatest loves were gardening and cooking. Often we would go out in the backyard, call her name, and up would pop a head amongst the shrubs and bushes followed by hands covered in soil.

A music bursary fund at USask has been established in Randi’s name. The family and University of Saskatchewan are grateful to the individuals who have already contributed to this new fund in Randi’s honour. Individuals who wish to make a charitable gift to the Randi Marcel Nelson Memorial Bursary can make their gift online through the university’s secure giving website. Cheques can be mailed to the University of Saskatchewan:

University Relations – Advancement Office
G15 Thorvaldson Building
110 Science Place
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5C9
Canada

View Randi Nelson’s full obituary.
We look forward to the day when we can again share our music with the community.