

UIS Music Notes

U I S M U S I C

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- UIS Music Scholarships
- New Music G.A.
- Music Technology
- Student Music Clubs
- Join the UIS Band, Chorus, or Chamber Orchestra
- Song Writer's Circle
- Old-Time Jam Session

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2009-10 UIS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

by SHARON GRAF

Polly Roesch Scholarship

We are proud to announce a new scholarship donated by Polly Roesch. The 2009-10 winner is Kyle Pratt, who is a freshman majoring in Chemistry, preparing for a career as a pharmacist. Kyle has played the saxophone for nine years, and just last fall, with the encouragement of our Band Director Todd Cranson, he began learning to play the flute. He has made great progress on the new instrument. He says: "I love to play music. Whether it be folk, classical, new age or ... whatever. Music always has me thinking. I enjoy



Kyle Pratt

listening to how every little part plays in together to form a masterpiece." Kyle emphasizes that music has made him a better person, and we are happy to have him as a member of the UIS Band.

Suzanna Kay Shiner Scholarship

This year we have two Suzanna Kay Shiner Scholarship winners, Kendra Hansel and Ashley Renee Pearson.

Hansel, a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Springfield majoring in Legal Studies with a Psychology Minor, is planning to begin a career in

juvenile law after college. She graduated from Williamsville High School in 2007 and her interests include music, theatre, mock government, and firefighting. Kendra has been singing and performing for twelve years, including performances with the Williamsville High School's Mixed Choir, Vocal Jazz, and Madrigals, the St. John Vianney Choir, the Illinois Music Educators Association All-District Choir, and the UIS Choir and Blue Rhapsody A Cappella group. Kendra would like to thank her friends and family for encouraging her love and talent for music.

Pearson is a freshman at UIS majoring in Clinical Psychol-

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NEW FACE AROUND THE MUSIC BUILDING

A new year always brings new faces, and this year UIS Music is happy to welcome our new graduate assistant, Julie Collins.

Julie is obtaining a master's degree in environmental jour-



Julie Collins

nalism and communication from the department of Liberal and Integrative Studies at UIS.

Julie grew up in the northeast corner of Wyoming (in the Black Hills) and received her undergraduate degree from Drake University in Des

Moines, Iowa. Now she lives in Lincoln where, when she isn't busy with graduate school, she enjoys golfing, yoga, bicycling, gardening, cooking, hiking with her dog, exploring Central Illinois, traveling—and great mu-

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WHAT DO PERCY GRAINGER, UIS, AND EDGAR LEE MASTERS HAVE IN COMMON?

by TODD CRANSON

... a connection to Illinois' Spoon River.

UIS Music's Spring Showcase Concert featured, among much more, a performance by the UIS Band of Percy Aldridge Grainger's *Spoon River: An American Folk Dance*.

The program note from the composer states: *A Captain Charles H. Robinson heard a tune called "Spoon River" played by a rustic fiddler at a country dance at Bradford, IL, in 1857.*

When Edgar Lee Masters' "Spoon River Anthology" appeared in 1914, Captain Robinson (then nearly 90 years old) was struck by the likeness of the two titles and sent the "Spoon River" tune to Masters, who passed it on to me. The tune is very archaic in character; typically American, yet akin to certain Scottish and English dance-tune types.

My setting (begun March 10, 1919; ended February 1, 1929) aims at preserving a pioneer blend of lonesome wistfulness and sturdy persistence. It bears the following

dedication: "For Edgar Lee Masters, poet of pioneers."

Over the course of the semester, the UIS Band gained familiarity with Masters and his *Spoon River Anthology* as well as numerous other connections between Grainger's music and our local community.

Masters' home town of Petersburg, IL, is only 25 miles north west of Springfield, and UIS's Emiquon Field Station is located near Lewistown, IL, and the point where the Spoon River flows into the Illinois River. Only 50 or so miles from

UIS, this area inspired the fictional setting of Masters' anthology.

The local connection, historical and literary significance, and great music provided the UIS Band a satisfying and challenging interdisciplinary experience this past Spring.

Anyone interested in performing and learning with the UIS Band this fall is encouraged to attend one of our first rehearsals on Monday, August 31 or September 14. For more information, contact Todd Cranson at rcran2@uis.edu.

LIS MEETS MUS AT UIS

by TOM IRWIN

"Seeing the students get a real kick from presenting their own compositions to class speaks volumes"

As part of the UIS Liberal and Integrative Studies graduate program, each LNT/LIS student is required to make then take an independent study course within their field of study. In my master's degree proposal, Studies in Music and Words, I listed learning modern music technologies and developing teaching skills as goals to achieve in my learning needs statement. Dr. Sharon Graf, as one of my academic committee advisors, suggested I take a dual role in Introduction to Music Technology (MUS 181, Spring 2009) as student and instructor, making the project my required LNT 599 Independent Study. It was a wonderful idea that fit well into my master's program and overall educational goals. Professor Brian Pryor, the class instructor, as well as a personal friend and fellow musical collaborator of many years, shared his knowledge of

teaching and music technology by graciously working with me on various levels of learning, from developing basic skills of computer recording to coping with student and classroom issues.

The course is an entertaining and educational look at the basic offerings involved in contemporary music software, including MIDI use, digital music file manipulation, transferring printed musical scores into the digital realm, and the concept of a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). Also included is an overview of recording history, song analyzing, copyright information, and learning the terminology of music technology. During the process of learning to use the software, students created original projects by applying creativity to technology resulting in some fun, imaginative works that added the entertaining aspect to the experience. Seeing the students get a real kick from presenting

their own compositions to class speaks volumes of the course design and the success of a curriculum that combines fun and learning.

Brian and I shared musical moments in the classroom by playing our respective instruments for the students to demonstrate recording processes and other technological uses of available music software. At Dr. Graf's suggestion, I wrote and gave a presentation on my experiences and beliefs in creative songwriting to aid the students in developing their original compositions. A few weeks ago I began to construct my first DAW using my classroom experiences to guide the way. Overall I'd say we had a good time and learned a lot which, in my book, is the way an education ought to be. Many thanks are extended to Dr. Graf, Brian Pryor and the UIS music department for an inspiring and edifying experience.

B L U E R H A P S O D Y

by KENDRA HANSEL

Blue Rhapsody A Cappella is an on-campus vocal group that was started in 2007. It was created by UIS music students looking for additional outlets to express their musical talents. Blue Rhapsody rehearses 4 hours a week and performs a variety of different songs from traditional A Cappella pieces to popular modern renditions. The group has performed on UIS Music Showcases as well as academic functions including the

freshman symposium and the CAP Banquet. This year, we are looking for new student members interested in A Cappella or vocal-only music. There is a simple audition process for Blue Rhapsody. The audition will look at tonal memory and simple sight-reading. We ask that each participant also prepare a vocal sample no longer than one minute to showcase their vocal talents. The auditions will be held in early September and we will start our rehearsal schedule shortly

afterward. Since we are all students, we know how valuable our time is. Therefore, we try to accommodate academic and personal conflicts when creating the rehearsal schedule. For more information about Blue Rhapsody or the audition process, please contact Kendra Hansel at khans2@uis.edu.

**W O R L D P E R C U S S I O N
E N S E M B L E**

by COURTNEY BAILEY

A few years ago I was a member of the World Percussion Ensemble at UIS. It was a really fun group of students, faculty, staff, and community members that met once a week and studied various rhythms for hand drums and the history of drumming in various parts of the world. This student club will start up again this Fall. There will be

an interest meeting on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00pm in room 29 of the Visual and Performing Arts building. There's no experience or drum necessary! UIS has a supply of drums available for check out. We will be learning together through guest teachers and from each other. For more information, contact Courtney Bailey at cbail02s@uis.edu.

Right: Blue Rhapsody A Cappella Club



Left: UIS World Percussion Club

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C O N T I N U E D**

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ogy. She grew up in a musical family, the youngest of five children. Her passion for music has grown over time, as she participated in various types of ensembles. In high school, she played the baritone horn in the band for three years. In addition to her daily singing around the house, she has been involved with all the choirs at her church, where she says she has "sung plenty of solos." She also says, "This is my first year in UIS

Chorus and I really like the atmosphere. The other chorus members are really welcoming. It was a challenge in the beginning, but I pushed myself really hard. I'm feeling very grateful for getting this award, and I am really excited that I was chosen."

UIS Music extends congratulations to these student award winners and gratitude to our generous music scholarship donors.



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sic, of course. Julie worked as the managing editor for a custom publishing company until June 2009, then spent the summer working as a freelance writer and editor. She's excited to spend more time on campus as a graduate assistant with the sociology/anthropology/music department this school year, and is particularly looking forward to working with the many talented musicians on campus and helping to promote their musical endeavors.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.UIS.EDU/MUSIC



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For the most up-to-date information from UIS Music, visit us online at www.uis.edu/music.

F A L L O P P O R T U N I T I E S !

Join an ensemble! Attend any rehearsal through September 14th, learn more, and get involved. All take place weekly in room 33 of the Visual and Performing Arts Building. Here are the days, times, and first rehearsal dates for Fall ensembles. For more information, contact Todd Cranson at rcran2@uis.edu.

Chorus: Tuesday, August 25
7:00-9:15 p.m. ~AND~
Thursday, August 27
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Band: Monday, August 31
4:00-6:00 p.m.



Chamber Orchestra:
Thursday, August 27
5:40-7:30 p.m.

Pep Band:

Pep Band auditions are held late in the Fall Semester. The Pep Bands perform for all home, conference, men's and women's basketball games, which begin in January.

Songwriter's Circle:

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact Tom Irwin for specifics, tirwi2@uis.edu.

Old-Time Jam Session:

2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. 7:00-9:30 p.m. with a "Slow Jam" from 6:00-7:00. Contact Sharon Graf for specifics, sgraf1@uis.edu.

Fall Showcase Concert*

Friday, December 4
7:30 p.m.
PAC Studio Theatre

* Admission is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted to benefit the UIS Music Student Merit Award.



Fall music courses:

MUS 101/301: Chorus
MUS 105/305 A: Band
MUS 105/305 B: Chamber Orchestra

MUS 281: In MUS 281, "Music Technology and Culture," we learn about

technologies used around the world for making music, including the computer. We develop listening skills, learn how to compose, and explore how the computer can help us to express ourselves in music. Students even create their own original instruments! This course fulfills the general education requirement in Humanities: Visual, Creative, and Performing Arts. There are no prerequisites to be in the class, so sign up today.