



## 2013-14 HIGHLIGHTS & NEWS

### Faculty members

- **The Gryphon Trio** was the 2013 winner of the \$30,000 Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts. The Walter Carsen Prize, administered and presented by the Canada Council for the Arts, recognizes the highest level of artistic excellence and distinguished career achievement by Canadian artists who have spent the major part of their career in Canada in dance, theatre or music.
- **Professor Christos Hatzis** was named the 2014 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Hellenic Heritage Foundation of Canada.
- **Head Librarian Kathleen McMorro** retired in July and **Melania Varcabet** retired from the library in December.
- **University Professor Emeritus Andrew Hughes** passed away in December. The epitome of dedicated scholarship, the proofs for his final book arrived just before his death.
- In August, we lost two esteemed colleagues and friends, **Voice instructor Lynn Blaser** and **piano instructor Andrew Markow**.

### Students

- Pianist **Younggun Kim**, a DMA student of **Marietta Orlov**, won 2nd prize at the 8th Concours International de Piano Francis Poulenc, held in France, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the composer's death. The competition was held under the high patronage of Mr. François Hollande, President of France. In addition to the cash prize, Younggun has been engaged to perform in France and other countries.
- Fawn Opera & New Music continue to produce new works and is led by current opera students **Amanda Smith**, **Adanya Dunn** (MusBacPerf 2012) and composer/conductor **Patrick Murray** (MusBac 2012).

### Alumni

- Congratulations to composition alumnus **Owen Pallett** (MusBac 2002) who, along with Arcade Fire's Will Butler, received an Oscar nomination in Best Original Score for Spike Jonze's film, *Her*, starring Joaquin Phoenix.
- Over 25 alumni and faculty members were nominated for the 2014 Juno Awards. Congratulations!
- In 2013 **Juliet Hess** (PhD OISE 2013, MusM 2008, MusBac 2002) started her role as Assistant Professor, Syracuse University, Setnor School of Music in a dual appointment with the College of Visual and Performing Arts and School of Education.
- In November, Composer **Jordan Pal** (DMA 2011, MusM 2007) was named 2014 composer in residence for the National Youth Orchestra of Canada.
- **Dan Jamieson** (MusBacPerf 2008) arranged all the music from John Coltrane's *Ballads* for big band and orchestra and held performances in Toronto with the Sneak Peak Orchestra and in Amsterdam with the Metropole Orchestra.
- The Toy Piano Composers are completing their 6th season of innovative concerts. TPC is led by graduates **Monica Pearce** (MusM 2008), **Elisha Denburg** (DMA 2013, MusM 2009), and **Chris Thornborrow** (MusM 2008).

- The opera and voice programs continue to be incubators not just of vocal talent but programming and entrepreneurial talent as well: **Michelle Minke** (MusM 2010, MusBacPerf 2004) founder and Artistic Director of Cowtown Opera Company received a Top 40 under 40 award by Calgary's Avenue Magazine; Essential Opera led by **Maureen Batt** (MusM 2009) and **Erin Bardua** (MusM 2009), is completing its 4th season this spring with a triple bill of new Canadian operas by members of the Toy Piano Composers.
- Choral groups are thriving in Toronto including **Gregory Rainville's** (MusM 2008) Canadian Men's Chorus, which is wrapping up its 4<sup>th</sup> season and Cantabile Chamber Singers led by **Cheryll Chung** (MusM 2006, MusBac 2003), who are completing their 7<sup>th</sup> season.
- **Anastasia Tchernikova** (MusBac 2011) is Conductor and Artistic Director of Musica Reflecta, presenting chamber works. Their fall performance kids extravaganza concert "Peter and the Dinosaurs", featuring works by grads and current DMA students **Chris Thornborrow** and **Dean Burry** (MusM 1996) was chosen as the best concert of 2013 by website Musical Toronto (written by former Toronto Star music critic John Terauds).
- The website Musical Toronto was recently taken over by 2013 DMA composition graduate **Michael Vincent**.
- **Donna Bennett** (MusBac 1982) and **Brian Finley** (MusM 1982, MusBacPerf 1982) are preparing for the 15<sup>th</sup> season of their Westben Concert series next summer which will feature at least one graduate from the Faculty in almost every performance.

#### Faculty of Music updates

- The Faculty of Music has launched a new online program called *The Newsroom* with host and current graduate student **Douglas Brenton** (MusBacPerf 2013). Episode #1 can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/84986795>.
- The first year of the Music Mentorship program launched with over 40 3rd & 4th year students and alumni, coordinated by **Rachel Desoer**, Cecilia String Quartet member. Thanks to all alumni who are serving as mentors! We are always looking for more mentors to match with students. For participation info please email: [mentorship.music@utoronto.ca](mailto:mentorship.music@utoronto.ca).
- The Faculty of Music has appointed **David Liebman** to the position of adjunct professor of jazz for the 2014-15 academic year. Awarded the 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Master of Jazz, the highest honour granted for jazz in the U.S., Liebman is a pioneer in jazz education, and currently serves as artistic director of the International Association of Schools of Jazz (IASJ) and artist-in-residence at the Manhattan School of Music.
- Building on our growing connections in the health industry with the **Music and Health Research Collaboratory (MaHRC)**, the Faculty of Music is developing Master's and Doctoral degrees in Music and Health. The Faculty expects to launch a Master of Music in Music Technology and Digital Media degree in 2015.
- The library has undergone a renovation of the reading & listening room this past year and will continue to be updated.
- In January 2014, an online practice room booking system was launched. No longer do students have to wait in line in the mornings, down the hall and into the lobby!
- And following reading week in February, students returned to the Edward Johnson Building to find new furniture in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor student lounge.

Do you have news to share? Please let us know! Send an email to us at [music.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:music.alumni@utoronto.ca).