

ACADEMY NEWS

April 7, 2008

COMMUNITY MUSIC AND DANCE
ACADEMY, UMKC CONSERVATORY OF
MUSIC AND DANCE

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Upcoming Events

April 12, 2008

Academy Piano Instructor,
Shoko Kinsella solo recital,
White Hall, 2:30 pm

April 22, 2008

Roo Singers Spring Recital with
special guests Mini Singers, GH
122, 6:30 pm

April 26, 2008

Spring Festival Adjudications
and Scholarship Auditions with
Karen Kushner

May 2 and 3

Heartland Chamber Music
Academy Auditions

TBA

Musical Bridges Recital, Paseo
Academy

May 4, 2008

Kansas City Children's Chorus
Concert in collaboration with
the Arkansas Children's Choir
and Canta Folia, Central United
Methodist Church, 2 pm

May 5, 2008

Canta Folia Auditions

May 6, 2008

Kansas City Children's Chorus
Auditions

May 10, 2008

Academy Honors Recital, GH,
2:30 pm

June 2 - August 2, 2008

Academy Summer Session

June 9 - August 1, 2008

Summer Programs in partner-
ship with Notre Dame de Sion

June 8 - 13, 2008

Cloyd Duff Timpani Masterclass

June 10 - 21, 2008

Kansas City Cello Clinic

June 22 - 27, 2008

UMKC Jazz Camp

July 13 - 18, 2008

Wind Band Teaching Sympo-
sium

July 14

Bolton City Brass Band Recital,
White Hall, 5PM

July 14 - 25, 2008

Heartland Chamber Music
Academy

July 20 - August 1, 2008

Glenda Brown Choreography
Project

August 1 - 12, 2008

Stringendo Chamber Music
Camp

August 8, 2008

Pilot Partnership Event with the
Nelson Atkins, Bloch Space,
6:30 pm

*For more information, please
visit our website: [http://
conservatory.umkc.edu/cmda](http://conservatory.umkc.edu/cmda)
or call 816-235-2741*

Classes and Kids Club 2008-09

Summer Classes

At UMKC: Theory I-III, Music
Appreciation, Bill Clay; TBA,
\$100/session, offered year round

At Sion: Cello, Dance, Suzuki
Violin, Keyboard, Music Appre-
ciation, Guitar and Composition
(see Summer Programs for more
information)

Save the dates for Kids Club

2008-09: October 4, November
1, 2008 and January 10, April 4,
2009. More to come!

Upcoming this Fall:

YES! Sight Singing can be
FUN! Enroll in the Academy's
Sight Singing Class for the Fall I
and Fall II 2008 sessions and have
fun learning to read your
songs without the help of an accom-
panist! An introduction to sight-
singing for singers and instrumenta-
lists, the course will draw upon the
Kodály method with Solfège (Do,
Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti) and Kurwen
Hand Signs. Course materials will
include handouts, flash cards, the
Patti DeWitt sequential sight-singing

books, and lots of fun and
games! Meets Mondays and
Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:15
p.m. \$100/session. For more
information about the course,
contact Jennifer Benjamin at
jenrector@aol.com. To enroll,
call 816-235-2741.

Sight Singing as well as Creative
Movement and Ballet with
Amanda McMaster and all Mu-
sic Theory and Appreciation
classes will be offered this fall.

Summer Programs 2008

In addition to private lessons and classes, the Community Music and Dance Academy is pleased to offer a number of different summer arts enrichment programs.

Youth and Young Adult Programs:

Kansas City Cello Clinic, June 10 – 21. The Kansas City Cello Clinic, led by UMKC Conservatory Distinguished Professor Carter Enyeart, has gained a national reputation as a fun, intensive program for serious young cellists. An audition is required; students ages 14 – 20 are eligible to participate. Application deadline is April 15. The fee for the Kansas City Cello Clinic is \$600.

UMKC Jazz Camp, June 22 – 27. The UMKC Jazz Camp is open to musicians from middle school – adult. It is led by bass player and bandleader Jim Winder, and features UMKC Jazz Studies faculty members including Bobby Watson and Michael Pagán. Activities include classes in improvisation and theory, combo rehearsals, and performances by students and faculty. Tuition: \$385.

Heartland Chamber Music Academy, July 14 – 18 and July 21 – 25. The Heartland Chamber Music Academy is open to string, woodwind, French horn, and harp players ages 12 – 20. Led by distinguished UMKC Conservatory faculty members and internationally recognized performers, this program introduces young players to the art of chamber music in a challenging yet supportive environment. An audition is required. Tuition: \$275/\$500.

Glenda Brown Choreography Project, July 20 – August 1. The Glenda Brown Choreography Project is a summer dance program open to middle and high school students.

Notre Dame de Sion Music Camp Partnership: open to all kids grades K-8. All camps 9-12 am Mon-Fri at \$90/week. Classes include: Cello with Mark Stauffer (June 9-20), Dance with Amanda McMaster (June 9-20), Suzuki Violin with Stringendo (June 23-July 3), Keyboard with Ya-Ting Liou and Blas Gonzalez (July 7-18) and Guitar, Music Appreciation and Composition with Bill Clay (July 21-August 1). To register: www.ndsion.edu/summer

Stringendo Chamber Music Camp, August 1 – 12. The Stringendo Chamber Music Camp is open to string players and pianists ages 14 – 20. It is led by members of the UMKC Conservatory and CMDA faculty and is designed to provide an intensive chamber music experience for young string players and pre-formed ensembles. An audition is required. Tuition: \$550.

Professional Development Programs:

Cloyd Duff Timpani Masterclass, June 9 – 13. The annual Cloyd Duff Timpani Masterclass draws timpanists from around the world to study the unique Duff school of playing. The Masterclass is hosted by UMKC Assistant Professor of Percussion Dr. James Snell. It is directed by Cloyd Duff student Jim Atwood and will feature timpanists Tim Adams of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Tom Freer of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Wind Band Teaching Symposium, July 13 – 18. The Wind Band Teaching Symposium for professional and aspiring band conductors is hosted by UMKC Associate Professor of Conducting and Director of Bands Steven D. Davis. Conductors Joe Parisi and Craig Kirchhoff will be featured as clinicians, as will composers Chen Yi and Michael Colgrass. The Symposium may be attended for teacher in-service points/credits, or for up to two graduate credits.

New Outreach

New Partnership with the Nelson-Atkins

August 8 will be the pilot event to a potential partnership between the Nelson-Atkins Museum and the Conservatory. It is our hope that monthly events will take place in conjunction with new exhibitions being featured at the Nelson. Programs will take place in the Bloch space rotating from gallery with varying ensembles performing.



**MYSTERY AT THE DOCKS,
KIDS CLUB
JANUARY 2008**

**“ IF YOU CAN WALK,
YOU CAN DANCE. IF
YOU CAN TALK, YOU
CAN SING.”
ZIMBABWE
PROVERB**



UMKC JAZZ CAMP 2007

Faculty and Student Achievements

- ◆ Musical Bridges student Markus Anksorus (clarinet / Cheryl Melfi) was accepted into the Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts for the 2008 - 2009 school year. Markus is currently in the eighth grade at Kansas City Middle School of the Arts.
- ◆ Academy Piano Instructor Leon Bugg appeared as Guest Artist for the Kansas City Musical Club on March 3, 2008, performing works by Chopin and Liszt.
- ◆ Academy Assistant Director and clarinet instructor Cheryl Melfi presented a guest artist recital and master class with pianist and UMKC doctoral student Xu Zhou at the University of Central Oklahoma on March 27, 2008. Cheryl and Xu also performed at the Music/Arts Institute in Independence, Missouri on April 7. In addition to works by Libby Larsen, Ingrid Arauco, Gwyneth Walker, and Katherine Hoover, their program included *Chinese Ancient Dances* by UMKC Conservatory professor Chen Yi.
- ◆ Academy Piano Instructor Shoko Kinsella will perform a solo recital in St. Louis, Missouri on April 20, 2008. The recital is presented by the Artist Presentation Society, as Shoko is a 2007 Artist Presentation Society Audition winner. Her program will consist of music by Bach, Beethoven, Prokofiev, and Schulz-Evler. Shoko also presented this program in Prairie Village, Kansas on March 30 and at UMKC's White Hall on April 12.
- ◆ UMKC Conservatory piano faculty member Karen Kushner presented a master class for Academy students on Saturday, March 8. Seven Academy pianists performed at the event. The performers were Dylan McGonigle (student of Scott Anthony); Emily Donovan (student of Leon Bugg); Karl Sparrman, Andrew Morris, Natalie Ortega Wells (students of Cameron Dibble); Miles Nilges (student of Jean Drumm); and Grace Cain (student of Jessica Myers).
- ◆ Academy composition instructor Narong Prangcharoen recently received a premiere of "Tri-Sattawat" with the Annapolis Symphony in February.
- ◆ Academy Director and composer Mara Gibson's piece "hands" was featured at the KC Business Partnership for the Arts Luncheon in March by Conservatory Doctoral candidates and Academy instructors, Ya-Ting Liou and Blas Gonzalez who also recently recorded Gibson's new two piano piece *D(u)o*. Also in March Mara participated collaboratively on ArtSounds with video artist Barry Anderson and composer Barry Moon.



CHERA HISHAW AND CANTA FILIA AT PLAZA ARTS FAIR

**"MUSIC EXPRESSES
THAT WHICH
CANNOT BE SAID
AND WHICH IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO BE
SILENT."
VICTOR HUGO**

Stringendo

The Stringendo Camerata had its premier concert March 9th at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral. The six week orchestra was designed to offer young players a chance to train and perform in a string orchestra setting. After two weeks and over 35 auditions, 26 members, including two pianists (who performed on harpsichord), were selected. Musicians ranged from ages 10 to 20. Students came from the Academy of Music and Dance as well as other private studios in the greater Kansas City area. Repertoire included works by Purcell, Bach, Britten and Strauss. A live recording of this concert will air on KPR out of Lawrence later this month. Bravo to the Stringendo Camerata!

Choral News

- ◆ The Kansas City Children's Chorus presented a concert on Sunday, April 6 in collaboration with the Sunset Ridge Elementary Chorus. The concert took place at Blue Valley West High School in Overland Park, Kansas
- ◆ The Roo Singers will be performing in Grant Hall room 122 on Tuesday, April 22. The Mini Singers will also perform as the Roo Singers' special guests, singing a song in French for the first time.
- ◆ Canta Filia will hold auditions for the 2008 - 2009 season on Monday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. Girls ages 13 - 18 are eligible.
- ◆ The Kansas City Children's Chorus will hold auditions for fall 2008 on Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. Boys and girls in grades 3 - 8 are eligible.

Community Music and Dance Academy,
UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance

Community Music and Dance Academy
UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance
301 East 51st Street
Kansas City, MO 64112

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Fax: 816-235-5998
E-mail: music-ce@umkc.edu
Director: Mara Gibson, Ph.D.
Assistant Director: Cheryl Melfi, DMA

Congratulations

Congratulations to Academy student Shayla James! Shayla James has been a piano student of Leon Bugg, at the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance Academy since 2004. She was a recipient of the Music Talent Scholarship in 2006 and the Emily White Pre-Collegiate Scholarship in 2007. Shayla is a senior at North Kansas City High School, where she is an International Baccalaureate Candidate. Her accomplishments include being Co-President of the National Honor Society, a member of The National Society of High School Scholars, team captain of *Relay For Life*, keyboardist for the musical "Chicago" and the North Kansas City jazz band, a violist in the school orchestra and the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of Kansas City. Although she has been accepted at several other schools, Shayla has chosen to attend Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the fall for undergraduate studies in music performance and political science. She has been offered two four-year scholarships in academics and music, and is also a finalist for the Diversity/Leadership full scholarship at Coe.

Welcome

It is our pleasure to introduce the new Assistant Director Dr. Cheryl Melfi. Cheryl has been teaching clarinet with the Academy since the fall and comes to us with a tremendous amount of musical, administrative and academic experience. She completed her DMA from the University of Arizona and MM from the University of Michigan. Additionally, she has taught at Mahidol University in Thailand, she was employed for several years with the Catalina Chamber Orchestra as Publicity Coordinator and has consistently worked as a free-lance musician. We are very excited to have Cheryl on board!

Alumni Update

Julius Abrahams is an alumnus of the UMKC Conservatory's Community Music & Dance Academy, where he studied with Dr. Cameron Dibble. This spring he will be finishing his master's degree in piano performance at Indiana University, where he has studied with Emile Naoumoff. His bachelor's degree in piano performance is from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Logan Skelton.

Julius began his very early piano study with Mrs. Mary Alice Lawrence in Raytown. Since she and her husband, Doug, are both Conservatory alumni (both singers), Mrs. Lawrence soon inquired at the Conservatory about a teacher for Julius, where Professor (now Emerita Professor) Joan Cochran Sommers, Assistant Dean of the Continuing Education division, sent Julius (and his brother) to Cameron Dibble.

During Julius' study in the Academy under Dr. Dibble, he won and received many honors, including:

- First recipient of the H. Lynn and Emily White Scholarship for pre-college students (at UMKC Conservatory Academy) planning to go into music as a profession
- Performed with the Kansas City Youth Symphony (March 2001, with \$200 scholarship award), as winner of KC Music Teachers Association Piano Competition
- Performed with the Salina Symphony (December 2001, with \$350 scholarship award) as winner of the Eric Stein Young Artist Competition.
- Second Place, Fite Family Young Artists Piano Competition, Missouri State University, Springfield.

Julius has just been hired by the Orlando Opera Company, under the direction of James Ireland. His contract begins in August and runs through May and may be renewed for a second year. Julius will be one of (and the youngest of) three staff pianists, whose duties, among other things, will include outreach concerts performing with four singers from the Orlando Opera. Julius recently was mentioned by the music reviewer in the Bloomington, Indiana newspaper review for his harpsichord playing in the Indiana University opera department's recent production (last weekend of February, first weekend of March 2008) of *The Marriage of Figaro*, by Mozart.

Visit our website:

**[http://conservatory.umkc.edu/
cmda](http://conservatory.umkc.edu/cmda)**

Reminder Spring Festival and Scholarship Adjudication Registration Due by April 19!

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