



The University of New Mexico

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UNM Music News

A Newsletter to Alumni & Friends
from
The University of New Mexico
Department of Music

Las Cantantes News

Las Cantantes, under the direction of Dr. Maxine Thévenot, had a very busy fall semester. In October the ensemble performed on the Lunchtime Series at The Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque and gave a concert in Keller Hall with *Prof. Pamela Viktoria Pyle*, collaborative pianist. For the second time this year, the group was invited to sing on the Arts-in-Medicine program at UNM Medical Center's Bill and Barbara Richardson Pavilion. Additional performances were given at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Keller Hall and Faith Lutheran Church. During these concerts they gave the world premieres of two works written especially for the ensemble—*Lo How a Rose*, arranged by Richard Hermann, and *Cradle Song*, by Iain Quinn.

In November, the highly anticipated release of the ensemble's first commercially released recording on the Raven CD label came to fruition. Entitled *My Dancing Day: Music for Christmas*, the disc includes three works by the ensemble's founder, Prof. Bradley Ellingboe, as well as the title work by John Rutter, *My Dancing Day*, with harpist Lynn Gorman DeVelder. Other local artists featured include Jeffrey Cornelius, marimba, *Claudia Giese* (B.M., 1978), oboe, and Iain Quinn, organ.

Based on the success of this recording, Las Cantantes has been invited to sing this coming May in New York City at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, at Grace Church on lower Broadway, at the historic Cathedral of the Incarnation, and at the Church of the Heavenly Rest, where they will replace the resident choir in the worship service. Their itinerary also includes attending a concert of the New York Youth Symphony at Lincoln Centre, a backstage tour of Carnegie Hall and Manhattan School of Music, and a Broadway show. They will also participate in a masterclass at Union Theological Seminary with countertenor and choral director, Robert Isaacs.

The ensemble will perform concerts this spring in Albuquerque on March 13 in Keller Hall and on May 8 at The Cathedral of St. John.



Las Cantantes at Faith Lutheran Church, Albuquerque

Concerts in the Community

On November 22, the lobby of the Center for the Arts was the location for "Concerts in the Community," an opportunity for music students to perform as a benefit for UNM's United Way campaign. Organized by Pamela Pyle, Assistant Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano, the event involved student musicians performing prior to the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra concert in Popejoy Hall. Donations to United Way were accepted during their performances.

Students also performed on December 7 for a fashion show at Dillard's as another fundraising event for United Way. Performers for these events included pianists Matthew Stewart, Juliana Jorge and Makiko Kimura, vocalists Ivan Miller and Andrea Kiesling, and violinist Roberta Arruda. Two saxophone quartets also performed: Paul Gibson, Jonathan Robak, Chrissie Whitlock and Amy Oakes in one group and Marcos Colón, Jamie Schippers, Jennifer Macke and John Cristiano in the other.

Kira Horel (M.M., 2008) has moved back to Kansas to be near her family after earning her master's degree in conducting last spring at UNM. She hopes to begin D.M.A. studies next year in instrumental conducting. Meanwhile, she has been working with various orchestra ensembles, including a church orchestra, a community orchestra, and the UMKC conservatory orchestra. She will also be performing on a cruise ship (Holland America Oosterdam) playing violin in a string quartet for three hours every day.

Kassey LeBow (B.M., 2001) reports that in May her professional chamber music group, Areon Flutes (www.areonflutes.com), was awarded the bronze medal from the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. They are the first flute group in the history of the competition to ever make it past the quarterfinal round. The members of Areon Flutes are Miyazawa Flute Artists. Kassey also had her Carnegie Hall debut with Areon last September, and they received rave reviews. They are set to premiere a work by and with flute pedagogue guru Robert Dick and to record a full-length CD in 2009. In addition to her busy schedule with Areon, Kassey also has a full private studio in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her students have won several national, California state, New Mexico state, western regional, and San Francisco Bay Area district solo and chamber music competitions, and hold high-ranking positions in several prominent Bay Area youth symphonies. Kassey's website has her current bio, résumé and pictures (www.kassey.com).



Areon Flutes

Tamara Maddaford, Kassey LeBow, Jill Heinke, & Amelia Vitarelli

Ann Baltz (B.M.E., 1976) is currently on the opera faculty of California State University, Northridge. She is also the founder and Artistic Director of nationally acclaimed OperaWorks, teaching performance skills and operatic improvisation for opera companies, conservatories and universities. She is a frequent presenter at the Classical Singer's conventions, and has been a speaker for Opera America's seminar *Building a Career: Strategies for Success*. In addition to her UNM degree, she holds a master's in piano accompanying from Arizona State University and studied at the San Francisco Opera, where she received the Otto Guth Award for outstanding coach in the Merola Program. Deeply committed to new and experimental works, Ann has served as music director for new works projects at the Minnesota Opera Institute and Portland Opera.

Since completing her master's in oboe, *MaryAnn Shore* (M.M., 2002) has turned her focus to early music, specializing in Baroque oboe and recorder. She has performed with such world-class Baroque orchestras as Musica Angelica, the National Cathedral Baroque Orchestra and the Orchestra of New Spain and appears regularly with Santa Fe Pro Musica. In May 2008, she returned from a year of study toward a Performer Diploma on Baroque oboe at Indiana University's Early Music Institute. While at Indiana, she worked with the early music faculty and filled in as Acting Director of the School of Music's Pre-College Recorder Program. MaryAnn is a founding member of Albuquerque Baroque Players, which presents a regular season of performances of Baroque music, and invites some of the finest Baroque performers as guests. In 2006, ABP was invited to participate in the Indianapolis Early Music Festival. ABP members include *Susan Patrick*, UNM Emerita Associate Professor of Music, and Mary Bruesch, Fine Arts & Design Library music specialist.



After graduating with a degree in composition, *Daniel Birns* (B.M., 1979) moved to New York with his wife, Joyce, and two daughters so that he could pursue music. In 1987, he earned an MBA from New York University and has been a software programmer ever since, though he plays music daily. He and his family now live in Santa Cruz, California. He reports that he achieved some momentary success during the dot-boom, which allowed him time to teach music at the local Waldorf School for two years, and has since returned to a Silicon Valley job, though he does get to work mostly from home, where he's never far from the instruments strewn around his workroom. Daniel says that one of his most valued recordings is of John Clark leading the choir in two of his compositions—John, he says, could make even his student work sound impressive. To hear some of Daniel's recent recordings, visit his website at <http://www.danielbirns.com>.



Daniel Birns