

ADMISSIONS REPORT

BY ANNE VAUGHT

The School of Music was very pleased to welcome an outstanding class for fall 2004. This year, as Dean Richards greeted the incoming class at freshman orientation, he challenged them “to begin thinking about how they will shape the cultural life of our nation.”

One student in the audience was Sarah Gibson, a composition major from Georgia, whose first work was recently published. As an accomplished pianist, Sarah will debut in April with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Violinist Yoo Jin Choi, who moved from Korea two years ago to live with a host family in Indianapolis, was a winner in the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Side by Side competition. The youngest member of the freshman class is 15-year-old Charles Delpuech from France, who completed secondary school two years ago and will pursue a bachelor’s degree in piano performance. These students reflect the cultural diversity and quality of this year’s incoming class.

The outstanding artists and scholars who enrolled this fall were selected from an applicant pool of 2,391, marking a 13 percent increase over the 2,124 auditions held in 2003. Acceptance into the School of Music is highly selective; only 38 percent of those who auditioned were offered admission, which represents an increase in selectivity over last year’s admission rate of 47 percent.

With a student population of approximately 1,600, the School of Music is the largest music school in the nation. Nestled on a Big Ten campus of 38,000 students, the school draws on the resources of a large university while maintaining the

nurturing qualities of a conservatory. The addition of 520 talented new students (220 undergraduates and 300 graduates) results in a nearly equal division between undergraduate and graduate enrollment this year. These figures reveal that the School of Music is succeeding in meeting the needs and expectations of both student groups.

The 2004 freshman class excels academically as well as artistically, and 24 percent of our new undergraduate students are members of the prestigious Honors College. Their average SAT score was 1417. The overall SAT average for the School of Music freshman class was 1235, which is well above the campus average of 1100. Two new freshmen, Jenna Sherry and Arri Simon, will spend their undergraduate careers as Wells Scholars. They will receive full tuition and special learning opportunities as recipients of the highest merit-based scholarships offered by Indiana University.

The School of Music attracts a diverse student body. International students make up 21 percent of its population; the campus average is 9 percent. Residency status is reflected by a 20 percent in-state, 80 percent

out-of-state ratio in contrast to the campus ratio of 60 percent in-state, 40 percent out-of-state. Our students come from each of the 50 states and from 56 nations around the world.

The School of Music’s 150 full-time resident faculty, who are internationally acclaimed performers and scholars, contribute to the school’s challenging, yet nurturing, environment. Each year the school presents more than 1,100 performances, including eight fully-staged operas. Performing ensembles include six orchestras (including the period-instrument Baroque Orchestra), four bands, four jazz ensembles, 14 choral ensembles, the New Music Ensemble, the Latin American Popular Music Ensemble, and the Ballet Theatre.

Why IU? When speaking to students who visit, I often ask what led them to consider studying at IU. Faculty preference, private teacher recommendation, reputation, and knowing someone who studies here are the most frequent responses. I recently met a family who came to visit the School of Music and to attend one of our daily information sessions. A senior in high school this year, the prospective student plans to audition on violin in the spring. Of course, I had to ask the question, “What led to your decision to study at Indiana?” She thought for a moment, and answered quietly, “My teacher went here and suggested that I visit. I also know people who study here and they love it.” She paused. “You know—it’s the School of Music.” “Yes,” I said, “I know.”



The School of Music’s Admissions Office staff and Anne Vaught with prospective students during a recent audition weekend.