

Letter from the Jacobs School of Music Alumni Board President

My Fellow Alumni,

Our alma mater is preparing to celebrate a 100th anniversary in 2010, and the preparations are in full swing. No one person is entirely responsible for the success of this music school, and it has certainly been the work of this entire music academic village that has produced world-class performers, attracted world-class faculty, and given to its students the world class education that each one of us, as alumni, has enjoyed.

With this gift of education, however, comes the responsibility to make sure that students that follow have the same cutting edge, quality opportunities. The Jacobs School Alumni Association recognizes that as an alumni body we must evaluate and organize our approach so that the school, the students, and the alumni can best be served.

The Jacobs School of Music Alumni Board has embarked on an ambitious journey to better serve the needs of the alumni and to meet the five goals of a strategic plan. We are indebted to Scott Addison, past president, for his vision and persistence in guiding the Alumni Board to formulate the strategic plan. It is only with your help and support that I will be able to lead us toward fulfilling the plan outlined here.

Feel free to contact me with comments and suggestion at stickler@marshall.edu.

Larry W. Stickler, B.M.E.'69, M.M.'73, D.M.'88
President, Jacobs School of Music Alumni Board

A Note of Thanks and Welcome

The Jacobs School of Music is grateful for the vision, leadership, and expertise of outgoing board president Scott Addison, who has spent much of the past few years envisioning and implementing a plan of action for the Jacobs Alumni Association that allows us to grow, prosper, and provide a foundation of support for the school.

During Scott Addison's tenure, the board undertook the very important task of re-imagining its potential as a body that represents and serves alumni and aids the efforts of the school. Major questions were tackled, such as what type of experiences members are looking for and the types of benefits, programs, and services that might be of most value.

The result of this process is a series of five strategic priorities, outlined on the next page, for the Jacobs School Alumni Association over the next two years that expands and refines activities of the chapter, thus setting it on a path to play a significant role in the fast-approaching centennial celebration. (Additional information about these priorities can be found online at music.indiana.edu/alumni/priorities.)

The Jacobs Alumni Board extends a warm welcome to incoming President Larry Stickler, whose commitment and dedication to us over the years has been steadfast.



Scott Addison (left) presents the gavel to Larry Stickler.

IU Jacobs Alumni Board

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Larry Stickler

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(Vacant)

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Charles Greenwood,
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Kevin Cottrill, Marching
Hundred Alumni
Council

Cay Smith, Friends
of Music

Bridget Sutton, IU Alumni
Association
Graduate Student
Representative TBD

Jacobs School of Music Alumni Association Strategic Directions 2007–2009

In anticipation of the centennial of the IU Jacobs School of Music (JSoM) in 2010, the Jacobs School Alumni Association seeks to enhance its scope, reach, and contribution to the Jacobs community. With the support of the school, our strategic priorities for 2007–2009 will be to:

1. Better understand the composition, career paths, and preferences of our alumni base through a comprehensive survey or other instrument.
 - Provide an opportunity to update/refine current or future services, events, and activities to best fit the interests of alumni and demonstrate the value of membership/support.
 - Make results available to JSoM alumni base through publication.
 - Enhance communications and “feedback” of achievements and developments to broader alumni community (e.g., Web news, *Fanfare*, *IUMusic*).
2. Expand the benefits associated with being a dues-paying member of the Jacobs School Alumni Association/IUAA.
 - Bolster marketing efforts for/utilization of IUAA general benefits among Jacobs alumni community (e.g., career services, lifetime e-mail forwarding/e-mail service, IU Connect, discounts, etc.)
 - Explore opportunities for Jacobs-specific alumni benefits.
3. Recruit a network of volunteer coordinators in key geographic areas (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Washington) to expand the “reach” of the Jacobs School of Music.
 - Actively identify and cultivate key alumni “influencers,” and provide the tools necessary to build region-specific alumni network.
- On-the-ground support for local events to “touch” greater numbers of alumni.
- Enhance era-specific engagement (e.g., events, connectivity).
- Support membership development efforts and associated expansion of services.
4. Foster development of more department-driven alumni engagement, following the model of the successful Indiana Organists United initiative.
 - Engage with department leaders and/or faculty to capitalize on strong relationships and existing alumni contacts/networks.
 - Support development of sub-groups, as feasible, to enhance communications, activities, and membership efforts using revenues from increased membership levels.
5. Begin planning for significant alumni participation in and recognition of JSoM centennial in 2010.
 - Explore feasibility of and interest in major alumni reunion activity in Bloomington (e.g., weekend during Summer Music Festival).
 - Identify opportunities for significant centennial contribution by JSoMAA.
 - Actively engage in centennial-related event and program planning to ensure alumni participation and involvement.

We Want to Hear From You!

As a valued member of the Jacobs alumni family, we want to hear from you! Here are the best ways to reach us:

Class Notes

If you would like to submit your personal or career-related news, you can do so online through your Alumni Profile at <http://alumni.indiana.edu> or by e-mailing ialumni@indiana.edu.

Get Involved

If you are interested in becoming involved in alumni activities at the Jacobs School, such as hosting or supporting events or other activities in your community, or becoming a member of the IU Alumni Association, please contact Melissa Korzec at (812) 855-4656 or mkorzec@indiana.edu.

If you are interested in becoming an alumni leader and serving on the Alumni Board, please contact Board President Larry Stickler at stickler@marshall.edu.

If you would like to submit performance information about yourself or other Jacobs alumni (for an online alumni performance database that’s being planned), please send an e-mail to musicpub@indiana.edu.

Comments

If you would like to comment on or respond to something you’ve read in any alumni-related Jacobs School material that you’ve received, such as *Fanfare* or *IUMusic*, e-mail musicpub@indiana.edu or call (812) 855-9846.

If you have other ideas to share about alumni activities and programs at the Jacobs School, please send them to musalum@indiana.edu.

Jacobs Scores at Grammys



Angelina Chang

The Indiana University Jacobs School of Music intended to make some noise at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in February 2007, and make some noise it did. At least five Jacobs alumni brought home the coveted golden gramophone on “music’s biggest night.”

Internationally acclaimed concert pianist and alumna Angelina Chang won 2007’s Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance with Orchestra for her piano solo performance of Olivier Messiaen’s *Oiseaux Exotiques (Exotic Birds)* with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, conducted by John McLaughlin Williams, who also won the Grammy. Born and raised in Muncie, IN, and now professor of piano and head of keyboard studies at Cleveland State University, Chang was the only American nominated in that category. She studied with Menahem Pressler and György Sebök while at IU.

One of the most emotional moments of the evening came in bittersweet form when

alumnus, David Baker student, and prior Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Michael Brecker posthumously won the award for Best Jazz Instrumental Solo for his work on “Some Skunk Funk” from his brother Randy’s live album of the same name. Brecker died January 13, 2007, in New York, at the age of 57, following a two-and-a-half-year battle with MDS and then leukemia. He was one of the most highly regarded jazz players of his time. (See obituary on page 32.)

Brecker also received a 2007 Grammy Award, along with fellow IU alumni brother Randy, keyboardist Jim Beard, and drummer Peter Erskine, with Germany’s WDR Big Band Köln, for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album for the live recording *Some Skunk Funk*.

In 1973, Michael and Randy, trumpet and flugelhorn virtuoso, formed the world-renowned Brecker Brothers and released the original version of their trademark album, *Some Skunk Funk*, in 1975. ●

New Affiliate Group Rallies Organ Alumni

By David Lamb

A new affiliate group for organ graduates is blazing the trail for a fresh model of alumni engagement and met with unprecedented success in its first year of activities. Founded by Indiana University Jacobs School of Music graduate and former alumni board president David K. Lamb, Indiana Organists United (IOU) was established to enhance the communications to and events for the more than 430 Jacobs School organ graduates around the globe. “The Jacobs School of Music is home to one of the largest and [most] eminent departments for organ performance in the world, and our goal was to bring together all of our alumni to further that reputation,” said Lamb.

In its short history, IOU can boast an impressive list of accomplishments. The group has hosted several alumni receptions, including one at the biannual National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Chicago in July 2006 that brought together more than 50 graduates

from across the country. The organization has also successfully launched two different mid-day recital series in Indiana—in New Albany and Columbus—featuring Jacobs School graduates in performances throughout the Lenten season.

Perhaps most impressive was IOU’s first-ever on-campus reunion, which attracted more than 45 graduates from around the nation for a weekend of concerts, social events, a gala awards banquet, and other festivities. Over the course of the weekend, the group named Dr. Herndon Spillman and Dr. William Entriiken as the first recipients of the Oswald G. Ragatz Distinguished Alumni Award, in honor of Professor Emeritus Ragatz’s 41 years on the faculty of the Jacobs School.

Lamb reports that, as a result of the



Indiana Organists United named William Entriiken and Herndon Spillman as the first recipients of the Oswald G. Ragatz Distinguished Alumni Award, in honor of Professor Emeritus Ragatz’s 41 years on the Jacobs School faculty. From left to right: William Entriiken, Oswald Ragatz, and Herndon Spillman.

group’s initiatives, paid memberships in the IU Jacobs School Alumni Association among organ graduates has reached an all-time high of 19 percent, and that support translates to enhanced activities in the future. A section of the current Jacobs School Alumni Web site dedicated to Indiana Organists United is currently under development, as well as continued evolution of the group’s newsletter. ●

Brownlee Living a Dream

By Melissa Korzec

Following an impressive year in 2006, in which he won both the Richard Tucker Award and the Marian Anderson Award, Lawrence Brownlee, M.M.'01, made his Metropolitan Opera debut this past April in the role of Count Almaviva in Gioachino Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

Originally from Youngstown, OH, Brownlee says that while he enjoyed music growing up, he never thought he would have a career in music. "I actually thought I would be an attorney," he said.

"Larry" grew up within a musical family. His father was a choir director at their church, and his mother would often sing solos with the choir. But being in the spotlight did not come naturally for their son, "When I would be asked to sing or prepare something for the next week, I would get sick to my stomach!"

The tenor would later overcome his fear of singing in public and even decide that he was interested in a life in music as a singer. He enrolled at Anderson University and, during his junior year, won the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition. "The response was so overwhelming," he said, "that I knew I wanted to continue pursuing a singing career in graduate school." Brownlee received his Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from Anderson University in 1996.

He enrolled in the Jacobs School of Music in the fall of 1996 under the tutelage of Chancellor's Professor of Music Costanza Cuccaro. "Studying at the Jacobs School of Music had an enormous impact on me and my career as a singer," said Brownlee, "There were many wonderful faculty members to learn from: Janos Starker, Menahem Pressler, Edmund Battersby, Patricia Wise, Teresa Kubiak, and Costanza Cuccaro, to name just a few! Through them, a lineage of music tradition is passed on from teacher to student, and I know that my growth as an artist is due to that. Ultimately, I would love to teach. I really want to be one of these musical 'links.'"

Brownlee adds that the Jacobs School offers students a wide variety in the way of music performance and music practice.



Lawrence Brownlee sings as Count Almaviva in Rossini's "Il Barbiere di Siviglia." Courtesy photo

"There is a wealth of opportunity to expose yourself to all forms of music. [There is] always a recital, master class, opera, or orchestra performance to attend, and exposing yourself to as much music as possible is so important to your career!"

In 2001, he competed in and won the Metropolitan Opera Council National Auditions award. "I remember standing on the stage [of the Metropolitan Opera House] and thinking to myself, 'I'll be back.'" And he was right! On Thursday, April 26, 2007, Brownlee made his Metropolitan Opera debut, adding to his already impressive list of professional engagements with La Scala, Houston Grand Opera, and Vienna State Opera, to name a few.

Additionally, a dream came true for him last year when he became the first African American to win the prestigious Richard Tucker Award, which carries a cash prize of \$30,000 and recognizes not only the accomplishments, but the potential, of a singer who is poised for the start of a major national and international career. "Winning

the Richard Tucker Award has been one of my dreams for a long time. I am humbled and honored," Brownlee said.

Cuccaro credited her pupil's success to his intelligence, talent, and dedication to his craft, as well as his belief in the value of constant learning. "He has tremendous integrity, a great character, and a great sense of humor. Everybody loves him," she said.

Grateful as he is for his good fortune in the world of opera performance, Brownlee asserted that "this life" is not for everyone. He said that he's on the road almost 10 months out of the year. "You have to have to have a very thick skin."

When asked what advice he would give to students interested in pursuing a performance career in music, Brownlee advised, "Listen, listen, listen! Listening is so important. You grow and learn a lot about yourself as a performer by watching and observing others."

We'll be listening, Lawrence Brownlee, and look forward to hearing you soon! ●