

MUSIC AT MUHLENBERG

Matt Balaban '10

Matt (on the left) with a group of his closest friends at the University in Hyderabad, India



Matt Balaban tells us: "I imagine it is relatively easy to see me as a concrete thinker. A neuroscience major with an affinity for mathematics ought to be. However, here at Muhlenberg, I have had the privilege of exploring another academic field that involves dimensions of one's emotions and expressions, leading to different ways of thinking.

"Although I've spent a good deal of time in music ensembles such as the College Choir, Chamber Singers, Collegium, and Orchestra, some of my most profound musical experiences have been in the classroom. *Form and Analysis* taught me how a thoughtful appreciation of music can be developed by becoming deeply acquainted with a certain piece. I never realized how much I could learn from articulating my musical thoughts and exchanging musical ideas with other students. Such

growth in my own perspective meant more questions than answers. In *The Songs of Schubert and Schumann*, I got valuable experience putting this dynamic musical perspective into practice by performing with classmates. I spend a good deal of time alone practicing the organ in Egner Chapel, but that's only one piece of my music puzzle: practice with others, combined with the exchange of ideas about HOW to communicate with music, are the other crucial pieces.

"A more expansive musical outlook was fostered by my semester abroad in Hyderabad, India. The mental flexibility I needed to accommodate unusual and unexpected events in such a different place is the same mentality that accommodates varying approaches to musical understanding. Yes, learning how to haggle for a scarf and bathe with

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Of special interest:

With this issue, we begin our 6th year of publication! We hope you will continue to enjoy reading about us.



Would you kindly send your email address to us (dfollet@muhlenberg.edu) so we can keep you updated?

*Without music life would be a mistake.
~Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche*

a bucket must in some way be related to discussing whether or not a coda exists using arguments of harmonic framework and motif patterns. If that's too much of a stretch, at least I took advantage of the valuable opportunity to explore another side of the musical world through tabla and sitar lessons. Both instruments made it back in one piece, so hopefully the 'Teental' rhythm and 'Raag Yaman' melodies can stay in my ears and fingers for a long time to come."

BOOM Activities – Spring, 2009

There is nothing quite like a live music performance, especially a multimedia spectacle like opera. This past Spring, BOOM traveled to the Metropolitan Opera in New York to see a performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. This trip coincided with the study of opera in Music History and enriched the students' appreciation of this art form. This Fall, BOOM will make its annual trip to the Kimmel Center to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra. The group also plans to attend more concerts by the Bethlehem Chamber Music Society. A combination of support from the College and funds raised through their activities allows BOOM to offer discounted or even free tickets and transportation to

these events.

At the conclusion of the Spring semester, BOOM held elections. The board for the upcoming year consists of Thomas Bertorelli, President; Dylan High, Vice-President; Melinda Clemmer, Secretary; Elizabeth Gaffney, Treasurer; Ariella Goldstein & Erica Rosenblum, Public Relations.

BOOM continues to serve all Muhlenberg students who are interested in music, and the organization is launching a new effort to increase awareness of its presence on campus with more events such as Student Talent Shows. We wish them well as they embark on another year.



BOOM is an acronym for the Berg Organization of Music. It also represents a musical sound!

Spotlight on Ensembles: Musica da Camera



Members of Musica da Camera

Muhlenberg's newest ensemble, founded and coached by Dr. Diane Follet, is Musica da Camera. Specializing in chamber music for woodwinds and strings, this versatile group of talented students plays music from the Baroque to the 20th Century. In its first year, 2008-2009, da Camera performed on four Student Recitals, played for the 20th Anniversary of Trexler Library, and provided music for the Senior Art Exhibit Opening Reception.

Consistent with the College's mission to prepare students for lives of leadership and service, this ensemble gives the students and their faculty coach, who occasionally plays violin in the group, shared responsibility for planning performances and making musical decisions. And this Fall, da Camera will partner with the College's Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement in community outreach. The intimacy of chamber music invites communication between performers and listeners, and the students in Musica da Camera are looking forward to taking their music into the community in the coming year.



Focus on Faculty/Staff: Karen Hiles

Karen Hiles completed her Ph.D. in historical musicology at Columbia University in May of 2009 with a dissertation entitled “Haydn’s Heroic Decades: Music, Politics, and War, 1791–1809.” She also holds an M.F.A. in musicology from Brandeis University (2003), and a B.A. from Swarthmore College (class of 1999) where she double-majored in music and English literature. Dr. Hiles was awarded dissertation-completion fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Musicological Society, and the Whiting Foundation. At Columbia, she was editor-in-chief of the oldest student-run musicology journal in North America, *Current Musicology*, and has also contributed to *Eighteenth-Century Music*, *MLA Notes*, and the forthcoming new edition of Mozart’s Köchel catalogue under the direction of Dr. Neal Zaslaw at Cornell. Dr. Hiles has presented her research at conferences of the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, the Haydn Society of North America, the Society for Eighteenth-Century Music, the Greater New York chapter of the American Musicological Society,

and the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo.

Outside of academia, Dr. Hiles served as a historical consultant for Sofia Coppola’s 2006 film, *Marie-Antoinette*. Dr. Hiles grew up playing piano and violin but switched to viola and in 2000 built a viola from scratch under the direction of William Stanley of Carmel Valley, CA. As a new violist, one of her happiest experiences at Brandeis was performing Schubert’s string quintet in C major, where she finally got to sit squarely in the center of the texture between the pairs of violins and cellos. She looks forward to performing at Muhlenberg.

Dr. Hiles will be teaching music appreciation and the music history survey, as well as courses on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century vocal and instrumental music. She is also excited about teaching topics outside of her current areas of expertise, to perhaps include courses on the American musical, global pop, or music and leisure in American popular culture.

Alumni News

Dr. Jonathan Graber '86, violinist and violist, spent the 2008-2009 academic year teaching as a Fulbright Scholar at the National Autonomous University of Honduras.

Janna Burke '06, who received her Master of Music degree in vocal performance from Duquesne University in 2008, appeared this summer as Maria in *West Side Story* at the Courthouse Center for the Arts in West Kingston, Rhode Island.

Jeff Williams '06 has received his Master of Music in voice performance from the Peabody Conservatory. He is a graduate assistant and is continuing his studies toward the Graduate Performance Diploma.

Elizabeth Boyer '07 plays flute in the U.S. Army's Materiel Command Band at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

Michael Sarian '08 has returned to his home in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is teaching trumpet classes at St. Andrew's school, of which he is an alum. He is also working as assistant to the Music Director for St. Gregory's school and playing in three bands. Michael hopes to return to the U.S. for graduate school.

Allison Wentz '09 has moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where she will do graduate work in music theory at the University of Wisconsin.

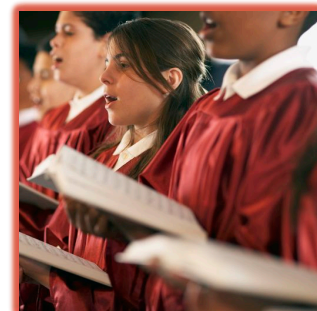
We congratulate all our alumni on their many accomplishments. If you have alumni news, please drop a line to the Editor at dfollet@muhlenberg.edu.

**Music at
Muhlenberg**



Our Mission

The goal of the Music Department is to develop skilled and knowledgeable musicians who think creatively. Our curriculum is designed to provide students with a broad and comprehensive background in music and the opportunity to pursue their own musical interests in greater depth. The development of technical and interpretive skills is informed by a liberal arts approach. We teach creative musicians to analyze evidence, integrate knowledge from diverse fields, make judgments, and create new knowledge. We are also committed to teaching students to communicate effectively, reflect thoughtfully on their own work, and show respect for others. These abilities prepare our students for lives as musicians, creative thinkers, and responsible members of society.



Fall 2009 Calendar of Events

September

- 16, Wednesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Jazz Recital: Charles Fambrough, bass, Tom Kozic, guitar, Gary Kissmiller, drums
- 25, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series: Olga Kern (admission charge)

October

- 3, Saturday, 4 pm, Recital Hall – Alumni Recital: Shannon Lambert-Ryan '03 and KUNA, traditional and contemporary Celtic music group
- 16, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Claremont Trio with Beth Guterman, viola, presented by the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem
- 18, Sunday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Muhlenberg College Choir, Jeremy Slavin, director
- 22, Thursday, 7 pm, Recital Hall – Master Class: German Diction and Vocal Literature
- 31, Saturday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Interplay Jazz Performance

November

- 6, Friday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Student Recital (1st of 3)
- 6, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series: Peter Orth (admission charge)
- 7, Saturday, 7 pm, Egner Chapel – Muhlenberg Collegium Musicum, Ted Conner, director
- 10, Tuesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, Ted Conner, director
- 11, Wednesday, 4:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Student Recital (2nd of 3)
- 11, Wednesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, Charles Fambrough, director
- 13, Friday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Brian Chu, baritone, Vincent Trovato, piano
- 14, Saturday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Jazz Ensemble, Tony Gairo, director
- 15, Sunday, 4 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Vincent Trovato, piano, Raya Gonen, soprano, Elaine Martin, flute, Don Hughes, trumpet
- 16, Monday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Student Recital (3rd of 3)
- 20, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Chamber Orchestra, Daniel Boring, director
- 21, Saturday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Wind Ensemble, Albert J. Neumeyer, director
- 22, Sunday, 3 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Michael Toth, piano

December

- 5, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Lehigh Saengerbund Chorus Annual Christmas Concert (admission: free will offering)
- 12, Saturday, 7:30 pm, & 13, Sunday, 3:30 and 7:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Candlelight Carol Services (no admission charge, but tickets required – contact the Chapel at 484-664-3121)

In the Classroom

Haydn and Mozart

DR. KAREN HILES DESCRIBES THE NEW COURSE SHE IS TEACHING THIS FALL:

Two-hundred years after their deaths, Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91) remain two of the best-known figures in Western music history. This course will explore the music, biography, and reception of these composers in their day and in ours. What did they have in common, what made them unique, and what can they tell us about 18th century culture? Taking a comparative approach, we will examine their music from the perspectives of style, structure, compositional process, and aesthetics. We will compare their biographies, asking what their lives reveal about the opportunities and challenges faced by

musicians in Enlightenment Europe. We will investigate issues of reception by uncovering the composers' relationships with audiences and patrons and by exploring notions of celebrity in the 18th century.

Today, the music of Haydn and Mozart is programmed in a variety of settings – from concert halls to train stations to advertising – and their lives have become the subjects of films, plays, and novels. What does this kind of appropriation indicate about the shifting meanings and value of their music? Throughout the course, we will balance our historical view of Haydn and Mozart with a critical evaluation of their significance in Western culture today.



St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna: Mozart & Haydn met in Mozart's apartment nearby.

*Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.
~Maya Angelou, Gather Together in My Name*

Music at Muhlenberg,

Diane Follet, Editor,

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www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/music

We hope you have enjoyed reading about us. If you have ideas for articles, alumni news, or comments about this newsletter, please contact the Editor at dfollet@muhlenberg.edu.