



# Music at Muhlenberg

## Sarah Manning '08 — A Quadruple Threat

In Sarah's own words:

"I am a double major in music and psychology. Coming to Muhlenberg, I was initially worried about being a music major and particularly anxious about music theory classes. I was pleasantly surprised by the professors' dedication and encouragement, and I became comfortable with theory! Music has always been such a large part of my life that it was natural for me to be a music major.

"I have a concentration in vocal performance, and I sing in the College Choir and the Chamber Singers. I am also quite active in instrumental music. Muhlenberg encouraged me to continue playing my instruments, and I am

now the first chair cellist in the Orchestra and first chair French horn in the Wind Ensemble. I take both voice and cello lessons with highly-skilled teachers.

"Dr. Connor recently introduced me to the viola da gamba, a bowed Renaissance instrument. I am now taking viol lessons with him and preparing to play in Collegium Musicum. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to learn to play this instrument.

"Outside of music, I am on the Dean's List, a member of Phi Mu Sorority, Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, and I am a peer tutor.

"I am astounded at how my abilities as a singer have grown and improved during my years here. My music theory and music history classes have helped me to think about music and performance in a multifaceted way, and I am a better musician because of it."



Sarah Manning '08

## BOOM Activities—Spring, '07

by David Liskov

BOOM had a productive Spring with new programs that both unite and promote musical events at Muhlenberg. We created the monthly *BOOM-Box*, delivered to every student, which lists all musical events at Muhlenberg and in the Lehigh Valley. In addition, BOOM has sought to better coordinate the nu-

merous a cappella groups on campus by moderating bi-weekly meetings between representatives from each group. Recently, all the groups and BOOM worked together to plan the annual A Cappella Fest, held on March 31. BOOM also coordinated a trip to the New York City Opera's production of *La*

*Traviata* on April 17. Both opera veterans and first-timers enjoyed the experience. A pre-show Intro to Opera lecture introduced the broad themes of the opera. At the close of this exciting year, BOOM says goodbye to its graduating seniors and welcomes the class of 2011 to campus next Fall.

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### Of Special Interest:

- Be sure to check out our events calendar on page 2.
- See our expanded alumni news on p. 3.

- **Friday, September 14**-Piano Series, Roman Rabinovich, 8 pm, Empie Theatre (Admission Charge)
- **Saturday, September 15**-Guest Artist Thomas Ovens, string bass and Vincent Trovato, piano, 8 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Wednesday, September 19**-Faculty Recital, Charles Fambrough, bass; Tom Kozic, guitar; Gary Rissmiller, drums; 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Saturday, September 29**-Alumni Recital, Lore Greiman Constantine '79, piano, 4 pm, Recital Hall
- **Friday, October 5**-Piano Series, Fou T'Song, 8 pm, Empie Theatre (Admission Charge)
- **Wednesday, October 10**-Master Class, The Singing Body, 6:30 pm, Recital Hall
- **Sunday, October 21**-Muhlenberg College Choir, 4 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Monday, October 22**-Student Recital, 4:30 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Friday, October 26**-Faculty Recital, Sephardic Music, Raya Gonen, soprano and Dave Smith, guitar, 8 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Saturday, October 27**-Interplay Jazz Performance, 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Saturday, November 3**-Muhlenberg Collegium Musicum, 7 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Tuesday, November 6**-Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, Ted Conner, director, 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Wednesday, November 7**-Student Recital, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall
- **Wednesday, November 7**-Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, Charles Fambrough, director, 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Friday, November 9**-Piano Series, Peter Orth, 8 pm, Empie Theatre (Admission Charge)
- **Saturday, November 17**-Muhlenberg Jazz Ensemble, 8 pm, Empie Theatre
- **Friday, November 30**-Student Recital, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall
- **Friday, November 30**-Muhlenberg Chamber Orchestra, 8 pm, Empie Theatre
- **Saturday, December 1**-Muhlenberg Wind Ensemble, 8 pm, Empie Theatre

## Spotlight on Ensembles

(Muhlenberg offers many different ensembles, both large and intimate. This issue highlights the Chamber Singers.)

As if students did not have enough to do, a small, select group from the Muhlenberg College Choir finds an additional few hours a week to meet and rehearse as the Chamber Singers. As with all of our ensembles, there is no course credit for this endeavor, but there is the enjoyment and satisfaction of building vocal and musical skills by exploring choral literature. The Chamber Singers tackle particularly challenging choral works, including difficult 20th-century repertoire.

The Chamber Singers are featured in both the Fall and Spring Concerts of the College Choir, and the group also sings in the Candlelight Carols Service held in Egner Memorial

Chapel each December. In April, 2007, the Chamber Singers appeared in the St. John's Lutheran Church Noon Concert Series.



*The Chamber Singers*

## Focus on Faculty/Staff

In Jeremy's words:

"Having been at Muhlenberg since 1972, I have taught thousands of voice lessons, and my success is mostly due to my ability to focus on the individual student. I am convinced that singing cannot be taught. Singers teach themselves to sing, while the teacher merely guides them to understanding how their instrument works technically. And a vocal coach enhances the music by helping them understand appropriate musical, textual, and pronunciation issues. The best students at Muhlenberg appreciate the importance of what they learn in music theory and music history courses and apply that knowledge to their vocal and choral studies.

The frustration and joy of art is that there is always more to learn!

"My musical education did not start until my second year of college. I became fascinated with singing when I dated a soprano music major and served as her accompanist. I received a full scholarship to Chicago Musical College, and in my senior year I won the Illinois National Federations of Music Clubs Contest. The prize included performances of Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony in Arkansas, a training camp for young singers where I eventually returned for 7 summers as a staff member and artist. I made my professional solo debut in 1969 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. While an

Apprentice Artist at the Santa Fe Opera in the early 1970s, I began to discover that I got more satisfaction from teaching than performing, though I continued to do both for a long time. With the work load at Muhlenberg, the addition of Muhlenberg Summer Music Theater in 1981, and my assuming the College Choir and Chamber Singers in 1992, time for performance has passed!"



Jeremy Slavin working with a student

## Alumni News

After **Lore Greiman Constantine** graduated from Muhlenberg in 1979, she received her masters degree at Penn State. Lore's CD, *Piano Impressions*, a debut solo album of eclectic favorites, was released last year. The album has received airplay and is available on download sites such as iTunes. Lore will give our annual Alumni Recital on September 29 (see the calendar on page 2).

After graduating from Muhlenberg in 1996, soprano **Lauren Curnow** earned masters degrees in music and opera performance from The Juilliard School and The Curtis Institute of Music. She has apprenticed with several opera companies, including a three-year apprenticeship with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. She returned to Muhlenberg in June to solo in Haydn's "Mass in Time of War," performed by the Con-

cord Chamber Singers in Egner Chapel.

**Eric Werner**, a 1997 graduate, made his debut with Opera Delaware last year singing the role of Morales in Bizet's *Carmen*.

**Brian Sherman '99** had his choral work, "The Lord's Prayer," performed by the Muhlenberg College Choir on March 25, 2007.

## More Alumni News!

**Selena Moretz '02** will attend the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy, this summer. In 2005, Selena received a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Boston Conservatory, and she has performed extensively since graduating from Muhlenberg.

Last April, **Janna Burke '06** performed the role of the Countess in Mo-

zart's "The Marriage of Figaro" at Duquesne University, where she is a graduate student. In May, she traveled to China with Duquesne's Opera Workshop and performed at Chinese schools. This summer Janna will attend the Ezio Pinza Council for American Singers of Opera in Oderzo, Italy.

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### *Music at Muhlenberg* *Diane Follet, Editor*

We're on the Web!

[www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/music/](http://www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/music/)

## In the Classroom

### Techniques of the Avant-Garde

Douglas Ovens, who teaches this course, writes:

"The model I had in mind in creating the Techniques of the Avant Garde class was one that I can only call "holistic." The course combines music theory, music history, performance and composition in one comprehensive experience. The music history and theory aspects have to do with putting the students in a situation where they encounter unfamiliar music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Important composers such as Edgard

Varese, Arnold Schoenberg, Anton Webern, Olivier Messiaen and Luciano Berio are introduced. It is generally safe to say that the most recent composers encountered in

any other course in our department make up the "pre-history" of this course.

"The students must first learn to how to analyze this music, since earlier analytical languages will not work. Having come to know some signature pieces in various styles, the students must then compose a piece which they present to the class and in concert. The presentation might be a live performance or a concert performance of the piece, either by computer or pre-recorded means. Lastly, they must discuss the work with reference to how it relates to any of the 20<sup>th</sup> century masterworks we have heard."



*Performing a student composition in Techniques of the Avant-Garde*