



Music at Muhlenberg

Michael Sarian '08 — Expanding Horizons

In Michael's own words:

"As a senior in high school, I was not sure if I wanted to study music, arts, or literature. I found that Muhlenberg was a solid liberal arts school where I could have a taste of all three. Soon after arriving, however, I discovered that my primary interest was music.

"My music background was mainly jazz theory, but I soon realized how much more there is to know. I quickly learned, thanks to Dr. Follet's theory lessons, Dr. Ovens' composition workshops, and Dr. Conner's World Music class, that classical and modern music theory and composition are as much, or even more, interesting than my previ-

ous studies. Being able to know and combine all three would not have been possible without the Music Department at Muhlenberg. And not only have I been able to expand my understanding of music theory, but I have also taken on many instruments, such as banjo and drums, that I would never have been able to learn if not for the diverse music faculty.

"A Baker Scholar here at Muhlenberg, I have been a part of the Jazz Ensemble, the Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, and the College Orchestra, and I have also formed various groups of my own. I

will be writing music for a Muhlenberg production of *Love's Labor's Lost* in the Spring. During my four years here, I have also worked for Columbia Records and IASO Records, both in New York City. I will continue to work in this field after graduation, and I plan to eventually get a graduate degree in Music Business."



Michael Sarian '08

BOOM Activities—Fall, '07

by Benjamin Katz '09

Over the past semester, BOOM ('Berg Organization of Music) has flourished and taken on many new endeavors. President Janelle Garipoli, Vice President Rob McCrann, Treasurer Ben Katz, PR rep Matt Indyke, and MTA Liason Ariella Goldstein have combined their various interests to vastly expand the

activities of the club. This past Fall, BOOM lead a trip to the Kimmel Center to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra, ushered at the Muhlenberg Piano Series, and sent out BOOMBOX, a monthly local music activities calender. BOOM also began coordinating the A Cappella Liason Committee and helped run

auditions for all A Cappella groups. This Spring, BOOM plans to attend a trip to the Metropolitan Opera to see Bizet's *Carmen*. BOOM is also planning to co-sponsor A Cappella Fest, run its annual talent show in the Red Door, and take a trip to the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem.

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Of Special Interest:

- Be sure to check out our events calendar on page 2.
- **Spring Special Event:** Composer George Crumb's works will be performed on campus, with the composer in residence. See the calendar on page 2 for details and the related article on page 4.

- **Saturday, January 19**-Faculty Recital, David Moulton, cello; Christine Moulton, flute; Michael Locati, violin, 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Sunday, January 20**-Intercollegiate Wind Ensemble, Douglas Ovens, guest performer, 3 pm, Empie Theatre
- **Tuesday, February 19**-Master Class: German Diction and Vocal Literature, Christa Warda, soprano, 7 pm, Recital Hall
- **Thursday, March 13**-**George Crumb Residency**-Quattro Mani, 8 pm, Empie Theater
- **Friday, March 14**-Class of 1969 Recital Competition, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall
- **Friday, March 14**-Piano Series, Jon Nakamatsu, 8 pm, Empie Theatre (Admission Charge)
- **Monday, March 17**-Student Recital, 4:30 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Friday, March 28**-**George Crumb Residency**-The George Crumb Ensemble, 8 pm, Empie Theatre
- **Saturday, March 29**-Songs in Celebration of Women Composers, students of Beverly Morgan, 4 pm, Recital Hall
- **Sunday, March 30**-Muhlenberg College Choir, 4 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Wednesday, April 2**-Student Recital, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall
- **Friday, April 4**-Faculty Recital, Paul Windt, violin, 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Saturday, April 5**-Senior Recital, Joe Power, bass, 4 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Tuesday, April 8**-Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, Ted Conner, director, 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Wednesday, April 9**-Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, Charles Fambrough, director, 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Thursday, April 10**-**George Crumb Residency**-Music of George Crumb, 8 pm, Empie Theatre
- **Friday, April 11**-Piano Series, Han-Chien Lee, 8 pm, Empie Theatre (Admission Charge)
- **Saturday, April 12**-Muhlenberg Collegium Musicum, 4 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Saturday, April 12**-Faculty Recital, Vincent Trovato, piano; Donald Hughes, trumpet; Kim Seifert, bassoon; Anthony Simons, clarinet; Beverly Morgan, mezzo-soprano, 8 pm, Recital Hall
- **Sunday, April 13**-Senior Recital, Janelle Garipoli, soprano, 4 pm, Egner Chapel
- **Friday, April 18**-Muhlenberg Chamber Orchestra, 8 pm, Empie Theatre
- **Saturday, April 19**-Senior Recital, Thomas Kelleher, tenor, 6 pm, Recital Hall
- **Saturday, April 19**-Muhlenberg Jazz Ensemble, 8 pm, Empie Theatre
- **Sunday, April 20**-Senior Recital, Kristin Kauffman, soprano, 6 pm, Recital Hall
- **Friday, April 25**-Student Recital, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall
- **Saturday, April 26**-Senior Recital, Sarah Manning, soprano, 3 pm, Recital Hall
- **Saturday, April 26**-Muhlenberg Wind Ensemble, 8 pm, Empie Theatre
- **Monday, April 28**-Muhlenberg Opera Group, 7:30 pm, Recital Hall

Spotlight on Ensembles

The Muhlenberg College Chamber Orchestra is conducted by Daniel Boring. At its core is a string orchestra, but the mix varies each semester depending on student participation and repertoire choices. A typical student in the Chamber Orchestra possesses a medium to high level of training and may have played in all-state orchestra in high school. In addition to strings, the orchestra may include woodwinds, piano/harpsichord, and percussion. Many students play several instruments and participate in other ensembles. Most orchestra members are not music majors, but several minor in music.

The Chamber Orchestra frequently programs music from the Baroque period (c.1600-1750) due to its variable personnel, as this was a common practice of the time. Another feature from this period is a notation sys-

tem called "figured bass." Analogous to reading today's jazz charts, the performer improvises from symbols that describe the harmonies. A variety of instruments can be used, and Boring may perform on a lute or theorbo, his specialty. In addition to Baroque music, the Chamber Orchestra also explores other repertoire, including contemporary styles.

The orchestra's goal is to rehearse and perform with the highest possible degree of professionalism while respecting each student's time limitations. The Chamber Orchestra rehearses twice weekly, performs at least once per semester, and is open to any instrument by audition.



Theorbo

Focus on Faculty/Staff—Annie Petit

The guiding spirit behind Muhlenberg's prestigious Piano Series is our Artist-in-Residence, Annie Petit. Born in Paris, Annie graduated from the National Conservatory where she won First Prize in Piano and Chamber Music at the age of 16. Her solo career has included concerts and recitals throughout Europe and North America. She has also appeared on radio and television, including a performance of Bartok's First Concerto with the Paris Philharmonic, and she has recorded six albums of French music for the Vox and Pantheon International Labels. Her performances have been praised not only for the clarity of her technique but also for her sensitivity, interpretation, and sense of style. Currently on the faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia

as well as Muhlenberg College, Annie makes Allentown her home.

More than 20 years ago, Marylene Dosse, a classmate of Annie's at the Paris Conservatory, had the idea for Muhlenberg's famed Piano Series, and the rest is history. Today, the Piano Series features world-class pianists in recital on the stage of Empie Theatre. One of last Fall's performers, Fou Ts'ong, appeared in only 3 locations in North America last year, Muhlenberg College being one of them. Annie never programs a pianist without seeing the performer live, and on one of her many trips to Taiwan, she had the opportunity to meet this artist and encourage him to come here. The Piano Series has gained an important local fol-

lowing and recently received a Project Stream Award from the State of Pennsylvania. The success of the Piano Series is due to Annie's tireless efforts and the esteem in which she is held by pianists worldwide. We are proud to have Annie Petit on our faculty.



Annie Petit

Alumni News

Brian Sherman '99 was selected to join the prestigious BMI Musical Theatre Workshop as a composer. Brian says, "the workshop . . . is considered to be the premier breeding ground for budding talent in the professional theatrical community."

Karen Uslin '04 is in the doctoral program in musicology at Catholic University in Washington, DC.

Allison Thomas '05 is at Middle Tennessee State University studying the recording industry.

Kate Foretek '06 is the Assistant Audio Coordinator at the Zoellner Arts Center at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.

Jeff Williams '06 has begun work on a Master of Music in vocal performance

at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, MD.

*****You can help us continue the tradition of excellence at Muhlenberg and brighten the future for the next generation of students by giving to The Muhlenberg Fund. You may designate your gift for the Music Department. Visit <http://www.muhenberg.edu/devel/> or call 1-800-859-2243.

Send us your alumni news!

You may email information to:

dfollet@muhenberg.edu

Students and Student Groups—*Noteworthy*

Noteworthy, a co-ed, all-Broadway, a cappella group, is one of Muhlenberg's newest student ensembles. Broadway show tunes are meant to be played by an orchestra, and arranging this music for voices is challenging. The songs must be easy enough for everyone to learn but fun and entertaining for the audience. Any member may arrange a piece, and the group votes on what will be performed and who will solo. This democratic system builds community within the group.

On November 19, 2007, *Noteworthy* appeared on MTV's *Total Request Live*. *Noteworthy* interviewed Patrick Dempsey and Amy Adams from Disney's movie, *Enchanted*. The group created different melodies, matching them to each interview question. The group then sang the questions to the stars on national television, entertaining not only the viewers at home but the interviewees as well.

The group performs at a variety of places around campus, and Muhlen-

berg can expect to hear selections from *Les Miserables*, *Pippin*, and Monty Python's *Spamalot* at future performances. *Noteworthy* is always looking for talented singers, so feel free to audition!



Noteworthy

by Christina Hourihan '09

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Music at Muhlenberg Diane Follet, Editor

We're on the Web!

www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/music/

George Crumb

The Muhlenberg College Music Department will be the scene of some "other-worldly" music this Spring. Pulitzer prize and Grammy winning composer George Crumb will be in residence on three different occasions during the term.

Crumb is known for his "hauntingly beautiful scores..." which have made him "one of the most frequently performed composers in today's musical world..." (Bridge Records website).

Music Department chair, Douglas Ovens, says of the residency, "I have been influenced by George Crumb's music since I first heard it in 1976. Crumb finds new possibilities in every instrument he touches, including the human voice. I really believe that these events will be nothing short of life-altering experiences for every music student (and music lover) who takes part."



George Crumb Ensemble

The first visit occurs on March 13 when Quatro Mani, a duo piano ensemble in residence at Colorado College, performs Crumb's *Zeitgeist*, *Otherworldly Resonances*, and other works for two pianos. Crumb will be present to discuss the pieces, and the performers will talk about the special issues in preparing such works.

The mini-Crumb "Festival" continues on March 28 when the George Crumb Ensemble visits to perform works for soprano, guitar and piano. The residency will wrap up with a concert of works of George Crumb performed by Muhlenberg College Music Department performers on Thursday, April 10. Each of the concerts is at 8PM in Empie Theater and all are free.



Quatro Mani