Lou DiLeo ‘10

If his original plans had played out, this article might have been written for the theatre department – that’s what brought Lou DiLeo to Muhlenberg four years ago. “I was ready to study theatre arts and maybe play in an ensemble or sing in a choir.” Instead, by October of his first year, he found himself involved in four ensembles. “When I started at Muhlenberg, I realized that I did not have to leave music behind. There were opportunities here to continue on trumpet and voice.”

Lou explains that his vocal studies have given him a better command of his instrument. Joining musical expression to technical refinement and language abilities has helped Lou discover and communicate the essence of each musical piece. “My vocal work at Muhlenberg has been my most successful effort in the 10 years I’ve been studying.”

Lou believes that “music is meant to be experienced. While it is true that in order to complete one’s analysis there must be an intimate understanding of the details and particulars that comprise musical works, it is not so much this examination that creates appreciation as it is the experience.”

Given this philosophy, Lou has enjoyed the challenges of being a member of the Muhlenberg Wind Ensemble, College Choir, Chamber Singers, Jazz Ensemble, The Charles Fambrough Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, and the Intercollegiate Wind Ensemble. He has also recorded many of the department’s live performances. These opportunities have exposed Lou to diverse musical experiences that have built on his musical roots.

“Music and theatre have always been inclusive of each other for me. I have worked to create a package that can create, present, or perform the magic of the theatre as a sound designer/composer/performer. My music studies at Muhlenberg have allowed me to achieve that goal and, in so doing, see the way to future success.”

Of special interest:

A NEW SPACE FOR MUSIC!

Story on page 2.

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

After silence that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.
~Aldous Huxley

Inside this issue:

See our features: BOOM’s President, Thomas Bertorelli ‘00 Faculty Member Ed Bara

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Check out our two-page calendar of events for the Spring semester!

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BOOM & its President, Thomas Bertorelli ’10

Returning for his final semester at Muhlenberg, senior Thomas Bertorelli is also returning for his second semester as president of B.O.O.M. (Berg Organization of Music). In keeping with the club’s mission statement, he, along with the executive board, has sought to provide access to and awareness of musical venues in the Lehigh Valley as well as the greater Philadelphia area.

Last semester saw the continuation of ushering Piano Series Concerts, as well as a successful trip to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra perform Tchaikovsky’s 4th Symphony at the Kimmel Center. New this past semester, B.O.O.M. sought to attend concerts provided by the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem, with the generous support of Dean Carol Shiner-Wilson. For the upcoming semester, Thomas seeks to sponsor more trips to venues within the community at large. Currently being planned are trips to the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall in addition to supporting events that will be held on campus during the upcoming semester.

Realizing that a passion for music is nothing without the right motivation, Thomas would like to thank the Muhlenberg Music Department for all they have done for him and others over the years. Fortifying his knowledge and understanding of music, his professors have been and forever will be inspirations for his future endeavors. He wishes everyone the best in the upcoming semester!

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

A New Space for Music

Muhlenberg will soon open a new space to serve the College’s music, theatre, and dance departments. The Rehearsal House will occupy the former Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity house, located on the western edge of the campus facing Cedar Beach Park. It will provide 10,000 square feet of new practice and studio space for students and faculty. Plans include an outdoor amphitheatre, complete with lighting and sound, set into the hillside. The natural limestone slopes will create a semi-circular, multi-tiered seating area for both planned and impromptu performances.

Music, theatre, and dance have all experienced considerable growth recently, with music enjoying a 165% increase in majors over the past 5 years. For many students, including those majoring in areas such as biology, business, and psychology, the opportunity to study the arts is an important component of their liberal arts experience. This creative repurposing of a former fraternity house will provide a much-needed rehearsal space for musicians, actors, and dancers.

Architect’s rendering of the music performance space in Rehearsal House
Focus on Faculty/Staff: Ed Bara

Ed Bara has been teaching voice at Muhlenberg for ten years, and his students have gone on to success in both classical music and musical theater. An active performer, Ed has sung in more than 14 countries, performing over 80 roles in opera, oratorio, theater, and musical theater. Ed has been a soloist on numerous orchestral recordings for major labels such as Sony Vox Classics and Time-Warner, and over the past three years, he has made live concert recordings for Lyric chord Records of both the Verdi Requiem and the Mozart Requiem; Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, The Ruins of Athens and Missa Solemnis; and Handel’s Judas Maccabeus. His students have had the opportunity to sing with him and will do so again this Spring when Ed returns to Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center to record the Brahms Requiem live in concert.

Aside from his professions as teacher and performer, Ed is also the Director of Music Ministries at Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church where he leads a team of seven paid staff members and countless volunteers and oversees the activities of more than a dozen vocal and instrumental ensembles. His position at Peace has also provided performance opportunities for Ed’s students.

In February, Ed will team up with his friend Vincent Trovato, piano, for two performances of Schubert’s Die Winterreise, a setting of 24 poems by Wilhelm Müller. These performances will be enhanced by a video projection of still images depicting the text, and the accompanying English translation will allow the audience to follow the poetry while experiencing the cycle in the original German. As Ed says, “Winterreise and Schubert’s Die schöne Müllerin are in a league of their own within the song-cycle genre because of their scale, dramatic coherence and power, musical and literary unity, and interpretive demands.” See our Calendar of Events on p. 5 for details of these performances, and join us for this exciting event!
Alumni News

Deanna Howarth ’04, a double major in biochemistry and music, graduated from Duke University in September, 2009, with a PhD in Environmental Science. Now living in New York, she is a postdoctoral Research Associate at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. While at Muhlenberg, Deanna played clarinet in several of our ensembles, and she is now co-principal clarinetist in the Manhattan Wind Ensemble. Founded in 2007, the group is composed of more than 40 members from the NYC area and performs three concerts per year at the Third Street Music School Settlement, the oldest community music school in the nation. Interested ’Berg alumni can visit their website at www.manhattanwindensemble.com for more information.

Brian Kirchner ’06 has released two albums since leaving Muhlenberg: Nocturnes for solo piano (2007) and, sponsored by the Muhlenberg English Department, The Blake Project’s Songs of Innocence and Experience (2008), featuring several Muhlenberg students, including Christi Razzi (see below), Scott Clausen, Colleen McDonald, and Sara Schoenleber. Brian’s play, A Rule of Nines, was produced last year at the Bleecker Street Theatre for the New York Fringe Festival. Coming this March at the Manhattan Repertory Theatre is Dismissing Robert Fink.

Gillian Greenbaum ’07 has earned her Masters in Music with a concentration in musical theatre from New York University. She will continue at NYU, where she teaches voice as an adjunct faculty member, to complete her advanced certificate in vocal pedagogy.

Christi Razzi ’07, an English major with a minor in music, is the Development Officer at the Bowdoin International Music Festival. Responsible for all fundraising, Christi brings her knowledge of music and her experience playing the violin to her endeavors, which include the annual fund, scholarships, major gifts, grants, marketing, and event planning. The summer Festival brings 60 world-class musicians and over 250 students from around the world to Brunswick, Maine, for more than 80 concerts. For more information, visit the Festival’s website at www.bowdoinfestival.org.

Rob McCrann ’09 graduated from the ’Berg with majors in accounting and music. Currently working as an accountant for a property management company in central Connecticut, Rob is also the Minister of Music at Faith Lutheran Church in East Hartford, where he is in charge of the sanctuary choir and the newly-formed praise ensemble. Rob tells us, “. . . it’s nice to still be involved in music, and I’m really glad I can do work in both of my majors.”
Spring 2010 Calendar of Events

February

  5, Friday, 7:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Melissa Frey, Soprano
  12, Friday, 7:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Jamie Rosenblum, Soprano
  14, Sunday, 8:00 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Concert: Gary Rissmiller, Drums, with The International Jazz Quintet
  18, Thursday, 7:00 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Hannah Brown, Soprano
  19, Friday, 8:00 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Ed Bara, Bass & Vincent Trovato, Piano – Franz Schubert’s Winterreise
  21, Sunday, 4:00 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Ed Bara, Bass & Vincent Trovato, Piano – Franz Schubert’s Winterreise
  26, Friday, 7:00 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Allison Lobel, Soprano
  27, Saturday, 4:00 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Jocelyn Gammon, Soprano

March

  7, Sunday, 3:00 pm, Empie Theatre – Allentown Band Concert, Ron Demkee, Conductor
  14, Sunday, 2-9 pm, Egner Chapel – Bach Marathon Recital
  19, Friday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Class of 1969 Recital Competition
  19, Friday, 8:00 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series Recital: Alon Goldstein (admission charge)
  21, Sunday, 4:00 pm, Egner Chapel – Muhlenberg College Choir Concert
  26, Friday, 8:00 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Paul Windt, Violin
  27, Saturday, 4:00 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Louis DiLeo, Tenor

April

  7, Wednesday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Student Recital (1st of 3)
  10, Saturday, 4:00 pm, Egner Chapel – Collegium Musicum Concert, directed by Dr. Ted Conner
  10, Saturday, 5-8 pm, Empie Theatre – A Cappella Fest (admission charge)
  11, Sunday, 5:00 pm, Recital Hall – Student Recital: Allison Brzezinski, Soprano & Lauren Satkwich, Mezzo-Soprano

Cont’d. on p. 6...
12, Monday, 4:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Student Recital (2\textsuperscript{nd} of 3)
12, Monday, 7:00 pm, Recital Hall – German Opera Scenes
13, Tuesday, 8:00 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improv Concert, directed by Dr. Ted Conner
16, Friday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Student Recital (3\textsuperscript{rd} of 3)
16, Friday, 8:00 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series Recital: Richard Goode (admission charge)
17, Saturday, 1:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Musica da Camera Concert, coached by Dr. Diane Follet
17, Saturday, 4:00 pm, Egner Chapel – Senior Recital: Sarah Evans, Soprano
17, Saturday, 8:00 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Jazz Ensemble Concert, directed by Tony Gairo
19, Monday, 8:00 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improv Concert, directed by Charles Fambrough
24, Saturday, 7:00 pm, Recital Hall – Senior Recital: Justin Mayfield, Electric Guitar
30, Friday, 8:00 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Chamber Orchestra Concert, directed by Daniel Boring

May

1, Saturday, 7:00 pm, Egner Chapel – Lehigh Saengerbund 152\textsuperscript{nd} Anniversary Concert
1, Saturday, 8:00 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Wind Ensemble Concert, directed by Albert Neumeyer
3, Monday, 7:30 pm, Recital Hall – Muhlenberg Opera Group Concert, directed by Jeremy Slavin
4, Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Recital Hall - Muhlenberg Opera Group Concert, directed by Jeremy Slavin

Unless otherwise noted, admission is free. Call 484-664-3363 for further information.
In the Classroom
Electronic Music

Douglas Ovens tells us, “This past Fall semester brought a fantastic change to my Introduction to Electronic Music course. For the first time in 20 years of teaching the course we were able to have it in a facility that allowed for each student to have his own computer outfitted with Digital Performer (a powerful sequencing and audio recording program) and Max/MSP (a program for synthesizer building and interactive performance). This was in the new Digital Cultures classroom, Walson 115.

“Having access to a classroom with 16 Mac computers allowed us to have work sessions in which each student did such things as building musical "robots," that is, creating routines that play streams of notes when particular notes on a keyboard are played. Each student effectively had her own recording studio and could enter her work and then develop it in the Center for the Arts studio by using some of our more specialized equipment.

“We expect this to continue to develop, and other new aspects of the course will be added in the future, including "hardware hacking" (turning children's toys into musical instruments) and basic instrument building.”

Music exalts life, enhances life, and gives it meaning . . . It is an irreplaceable, undeserved, transcendental blessing.
—Anthony Storr, Music and the Mind

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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.