

2007

# FANFARE

News from the Viterbo  
University Music Department

## Greetings from the Viterbo Music Department

*Timothy Schorr*  
Music Department Chair

Welcome to the second annual issue of *Fanfare*, the newsletter of the Viterbo University music department. This is an exciting time in the history of the department. As we continue to draw upon the strength and heritage of our founders, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, we look ahead to creating a program of "national distinction," a new strategic goal recently announced by President Richard Artman. This renewed support for the School of Fine Arts and the music department has brought about new funding, programming, and recruiting initiatives, and greater recognition of our accomplishments.

Voice students continue to win awards at the Metropolitan Opera and NATS auditions. The music education program has a healthy enrollment and an extremely high placement rate. Newly restored Steinway pianos grace our concert stages. Faculty members are active in presenting workshops, recitals, and master

classes nationally and internationally. Facility enhancements include renovations in the recital hall, a new recording studio, and a new digital keyboard laboratory. Recent graduates have been accepted into such prestigious graduate music programs as Indiana University, Manhattan School of Music, Cleveland Institute, Ball State University, and Boston Conservatory.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting concerts, workshops, tours, productions, and student and faculty accomplishments. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at 608-796-3769 or [tbschorr@viterbo.edu](mailto:tbschorr@viterbo.edu). We always enjoy hearing from our alumni!

## New Endowed Scholarship Honors Sr. Marlene Weisenbeck



**Marlene Weisenbeck,**  
FSPA

An endowed scholarship has been established in honor of Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, a long-time member of the music department and former chair of the board of trustees.

The Sister Marlene Weisenbeck Piano Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time music department student, majoring in piano. More than

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## A Viterbo Christmas



This year's Christmas Concert, entitled *A Viterbo Christmas* will be a collaboration of students and faculty from music, theatre, art, and dance. The first half of the concert will include poems, sacred readings, and an excerpt from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The second half will feature Lloyd Pfautsch's *A Day for Dancing*. Ensembles performing include the La Crosse Girlchoir, La Crosse BoyChoir, 9th Street Singers, Platinum Edition, and a chamber group from the Preparatory School of Arts. The art department will also have an exhibit of works on display in the Hospitality Suite. The concert will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available through the Viterbo University Box Office at 608-796-3100 or [boxoffice@viterbo.edu](mailto:boxoffice@viterbo.edu).

one student per year may receive the scholarship and recipients may receive the award for more than one year.

Music department faculty, family, and friends of Sr. Weisenbeck established the scholarship in recognition of her long and outstanding tenure at Viterbo.

"It's truly special to have a scholarship named in honor of Sr. Marlene," said Tim Schorr, chair of the music department. "She is a talented musician as were so many other FSPA. They are our mentors and it is a privilege to follow in their footsteps. The award will help us recruit talented individuals who want to be piano teachers."

Sr. Weisenbeck was a member of the music faculty from 1971-89 and during that time served four years as department chair. She is the former chair of the Viterbo board of trustees, having served from 1994-2002. A native of Durand, Sr. Weisenbeck is currently president of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Prior to that, she served the La Crosse Diocese in the Office of Consecrated Life, and as chancellor. She earned a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master's degree from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and a bachelor's degree from Viterbo.

Support continues to grow for endowed music scholarships, which include:

- Don and Rose Madary Church Music Scholarship
- Juanita Beck Piano Scholarship
- Margaret (Peg) Schmitz Music Education Scholarship
- Richard Record Music Scholarship to recruit male vocalists
- Sister Annarose Glum Music Scholarship
- Sister Marlene Weisenbeck Piano Scholarship
- The Cyrilla Barr Sacred Music Scholarship

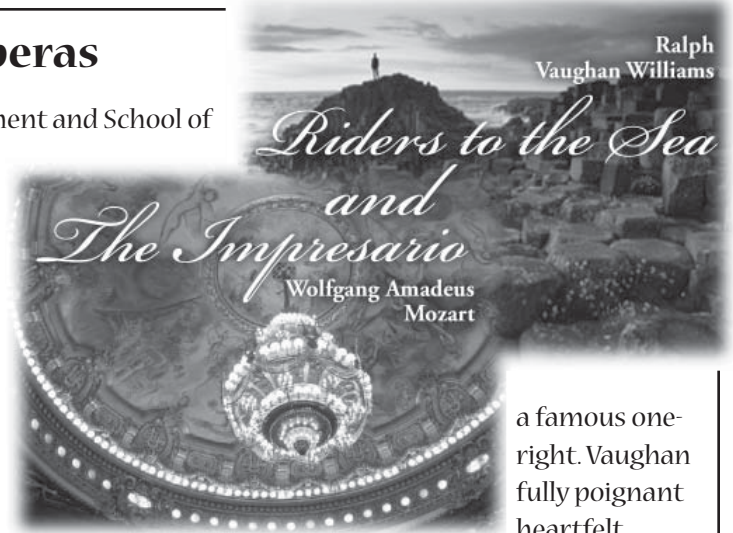
Most of these funds have not yet reached the \$10,000 endowment level,

## One-Act Operas

The music department and School of Fine Arts presented *Riders to the Sea* by Vaughan Williams and *The Impresario* by Mozart on Sept. 22-23 in the recital hall. *Riders to the Sea* is an act play in its own right. Williams' beautiful music adds a dramatic element

*The Impresario* is as fluffy and silly as the Vaughan Williams is serious. Mozart's music is uplifting and points out the humor of this opera.

Cast members were Andy Kroes, Matthew Curtis, Sarah Shestak, Brianna Burner, Andrew Dahlberg, Andrea Feirer, Dustin Oldenburg, Katherine Weber, Kim Hutchinson, Elayne Juten, Robynn Koeppel, Colleen Lentz, Cassie Pennebecker, Elizabeth Curtis, Marysa Abbas, and Hannah Weiss. The music director was Dan Johnson-Wilmot, and the stage director was fine arts dean Ken Risch. The rehearsal pianist was Holly Saunders, and Judy Stafslieen played for the performances. The production was part of a larger effort to strengthen the opera curriculum in the music program that includes the recent addition of an opera emphasis within the performance degree. Plans are being made for the next full-scale opera production in the main theatre, which will be presented in the spring of 2009.



a famous one-act play. Vaughan Williams' fully poignant and heartfelt music adds a dramatic element to this work.

which means that the scholarships cannot yet be awarded to deserving students. Your generous financial support ensures the continued quality and success of the music program. To contribute, contact the Institutional Advancement Office at 608-796-3070 or [giving@viterbo.edu](mailto:giving@viterbo.edu).

## Concert Choir has a New Look

President Rick Artman recently awarded the music department \$14,000 to purchase new concert dresses and tuxedos for the Concert Choir. The new attire was fitted to the singers early in the semester and worn for the first time on the October tour. The Viterbo community will see the group's "new look" during the Christmas concerts on December 1-2.

## Fall Music Tour

The Viterbo music department toured Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee in October. The three-day tour featured Concert Choir, 9th Street Singers, an opera trio, student pianists, and conductors. The tour itinerary included performances on the Arts at First Concert Series at First Methodist Church in Kenosha, the Dekoven Center in Racine, and the Horlick, Brookfield, and Pius XI high schools. Students gained valuable experience in performing for and interacting with high school students, who are also developing their interests and talents in music. The tour was highly successful, especially considering the challenges of preparing to perform at such an early point in the academic year.

## Faculty Retirement Announced



**Jerry Benser**

Jerry Benser, D.M.A., a seventeen-year member of the music department faculty, recently announced that he will retire at the end of the academic year. Benser teaches applied voice, diction, and song literature, and is well known for his extensive collection of music scores and recordings. The department has undertaken a national search to fill the position and plans to interview candidates for the position in the spring.

## Singers are Finalists and Winners at NATS Auditions

The 2007 Wisconsin State Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Audition was held at Lawrence University in Appleton on Nov. 2-3. There are 20 divisions in the state audition, ranging from high school to adult professional level and including both classical and musical theatre genres. This year a total of 425 singers performed in preliminary, semi-final, and final rounds over the two-day period. Viterbo music faculty Diane Foust, Jean Saladino, Jerry Benser, and Dan Johnson-Wilmot entered 54 students in the audition.

Raymond Graybar was a finalist in high school boys and Aidan Smerud won first place in high school boy's musical theatre. Both plan on attending Viterbo University next year. Sarah Zuber, Sarah Gibbons, and Ashley Mispagel were semi-finalists in freshman women. In freshman men Charles Vogt won third place. Katherine Weber, daughter of music alum Rebecca Granum-Weber, won first place in sophomore women. Jared Mashak won second place in lower college musical theatre men. In junior women, Andrea Feirer was a semi-finalist and Anna Koll won third place. Sarah Shestak was a semi-finalist in senior women. Ryan McCoy was a semi-finalist and Andrew Kroes won first place in senior men. Kimberly Hutchinson was a semi-finalist in continuing senior women. Matthew Curtis won first place in continuing senior men. Nicholas Marinucci won second place in upper college musical theatre men.

Sarah Zuber, Nicholas Marinucci, Sarah Shestak and Ryan McCoy are students of Jean Saladino. Raymond Graybar, Aidan Smerud, Sarah Gibbons, Ashley Mispagel, Charles Vogt, Katherine Weber, Jared Mashak, Andrea Feirer, Anna Koll, Andrew Kroes, Kimberly Hutchinson and Matthew Curtis are students of Dan Johnson-Wilmot.

Diane Foust is a member of the State Audition Committee and checks the 1500+ songs and arias that are entered each year by the singers. Dan Johnson-Wilmot is the state audition chairman. Judy Stafslie, Holly Saunders, Kay Lehman, Kathryn Heron, and Joseph Schermann accompanied students at the audition.

## Grant Money Funds State-of-the-Art Keyboard Lab Pianos

Generous gifts from the President's Fund and Title III enabled the music department to replace its out dated electronic keyboards with upscale Yamaha Clavinova P230PE models for the keyboard lab this fall. The turn-over in technology is part of a university-wide effort to offer optimum technological tools for both learning and research. The new keyboards have a weighted action with standard pedals and keyboard, not to mention a vastly superior sound! Mary Ellen Hauptert, Ph.D., instructor for class piano and piano proficiency courses at Viterbo, is enthusiastic about implementing the new Clavinova 230 features into her curriculum and hopes that these beautiful new instruments will serve our students well for many years to come.



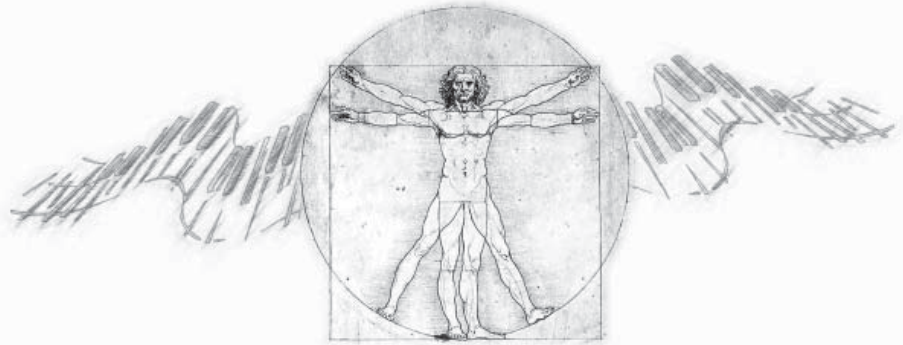
## Students win Metropolitan Awards

The 46th annual Wisconsin District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions were held on Saturday, Oct. 13 at Shattuck Hall, Carroll College in Waukesha. Viterbo singers Sarah Shestak and Andrew Kroes performed and were accompanied by Judy Stafslie. From the highly competitive field of 40 singers, both Sarah and Andrew won \$2000 encouragement awards. Sarah studies with Jean Saladino, while Andrew is a student of Dan Johnson-Wilmot.

As a result of the auditions, Andrew was invited to participate in Supporters of Opera Singers coaching program, which is in its sixth year and has been a terrific success. Tim Shaindlin from the Lyric Opera of Chicago is the coach, with the workshop and participant's recital being held at the Sharon Lynn Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield.

## Alexander Technique Workshop

The first annual Residential Alexander Technique Workshop was held at Viterbo July 31-Aug. 5. The three master teachers were Carol Boggs of the Washington, D.C. area; Martha Hansen Fertman of Philadelphia; and Michael Frederick of Los Angeles and Moscow, Idaho. The 21 participants had daily group lessons, individual lessons with each teacher, and special topics classes such as Authentic Movement, Performance Class, and Using Alexander Technique in Daily Activities. Feedback was positive, and the second annual Residential Alexander Technique Workshop is planned for July 29-Aug. 3, 2008. For more infor-



## The Balanced Pianist Institute

The first annual Balanced Pianist Institute, held last July at Viterbo University, filled to its capacity with amateur and professional pianists from as far away as Australia. The institute is the brain child of pianists Teresa Dybvig and Susan Nowicki, teacher-specialists in the Taubman technique, whose vision was to provide a workshop that would offer exposure to the technique through lessons, master classes, and lecture-demonstrations. In addition to that core, book discussions, recreation activities, and classes in the Alexander Technique (taught by Viterbo music faculty member, Diane Foust) and Iyengar Yoga (taught by Chris Saudek of The Yoga Place) enhanced the experience. For more information on Balanced Pianist Wisconsin 2008, please visit [www.balancedpianist.com/Wisconsin.htm](http://www.balancedpianist.com/Wisconsin.htm) or contact Mary Ellen Haupert at [mehaupert@viterbo.edu](mailto:mehaupert@viterbo.edu).

mation or to get on the mailing list, contact Diane Foust, [dfoust@viterbo.edu](mailto:dfoust@viterbo.edu). Since fall 2006, Diane Foust has offered a class called Introduction to the Alexander Technique. She is now a certified teaching member of Alexander Technique International.

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Brian Luckner, Coordinator of Sacred Music

Brian Luckner, D.M.A. is director of music and organist at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse, a position he has held since 1988. In addition to his full-time position at the Cathedral, Luckner is director of the La Crosse Diocesan Choir and Diocesan Chorale, and is an adjunct faculty member at Viterbo University, where he coordinates the sacred music minor. His compositions are published by Paraclete Press, GIA Publications,

Trinitas, MorningStar, and Mark Foster. He served as head of the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians (U.S. and Canada) from 1997-2002. Prior to his appointment in La Crosse, he was the assistant in liturgical music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Earlier church positions include the Church of the Guardian Angels in Cincinnati and Christ Episcopal Church in Oberlin, Ohio. He holds the doctor of musical arts degree and the master of music degree from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and the bachelor of music degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. He participated in the "Accelerated Bachelor of Music Program for High School Students" at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Brian and his wife Danielle (a Viterbo graduate) have two young sons, George and Harry.

## News from Platinum Edition

Last spring Platinum Edition, our collegiate show choir, was invited to host and perform for the FAME Orlando Show Choir Competition, which will be held in Orlando on March 15, 2008 at the Universal Studios Hard Rock Live Theatre. According to Nancy Allen, the ensemble's director, participating collegiate groups are selected by the "quality of performance, national reputation, leadership skills, ability to pitch in with a 'can do' attitude, and professionalism on and off stage." Platinum Edition also hosted the FAME World Cup in Branson, Mo. in the spring of 2006. Mark your calendars so you can join us for our spring show on April 12, 2008.

## Viterbo Hosts Distinguished Visiting Artists

In September Dave Marck, jazz pianist, performed on a recital with Nancy Allen. He also visited music appreciation classes and spoke with theory and piano classes about jazz style. He will return in the spring to lead a class for music majors on jazz history and styles.



**Alison Deadman**

Diane Foust invited clarinetist Alison Deadman, who is on the music faculty at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn., to perform a recital of music for soprano and clarinet on Sunday, Nov. 18 in the recital hall. The program consisted of music of Meyerbeer, Vaughan Williams, Spohr, Copland, Jacob, and Schubert. They were assisted by

Timothy Schorr, piano, and Barb Tristano, flute. Deadman also visited the accompanying class, where students got to observe the first rehearsal for the recital. On Oct. 19, Deadman and Foust presented the recital at ETSU. Foust and Deadman met in Philadelphia, where they were both studying to be Alexander teachers.



**Paul Kiesgen**

In February 2008, Paul Kiesgen of the voice faculty of Indiana University will make a return visit to Viterbo to conduct a master class and a workshop on working with the female voice. At the invitation of Dan Johnson-Wilmot, he came during the 2006-07 year to present a workshop

on teaching male students. After his presentations at Viterbo, Kiesgen will be the guest presenter for the state chapter of NATS at its Feb. 16, 2008, meeting.

On April 5, 2008, Joseph Levitt, tenor, will present a guest recital in the recital hall. Levitt is on the voice faculty at Ball State University, where Viterbo music graduates Damion Mead and Colleen Meier are students of his working on master of music degrees in voice.



## Piano Faculty Perform in Scotland



Piano faculty members Mary Ellen Hauptert and Timothy Schorr traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland in October, where they performed the season-opening concert for the Edinburgh Society of Musicians. Their host

was Dr. Colin Kingsley, professor emeritus of the University of Edinburgh, who invited the duo to perform on the series and is a former teacher of Hauptert. The concert was enthusiastically received and featured piano duets by Mozart, Schubert, Beach, and Barber. The duo also had the opportunity to tour the Russell Keyboard Collection, one of the most important archives of historical keyboards in the world, and to research piano music by British composers at several Edinburgh libraries. The trip was funded in part by Viterbo University faculty development grant monies. Hauptert and Schorr have performed four-hand concerts at various universities and plan to debut a new program of British and American duets next year.

# Current Music Faculty



Nancy Allen



Jerry Benser



Diane Foust



Mary Ellen Haupert



Dan Johnson-Wilmot



Carol Rhodes (adjunct)



Jean Saladino



Timothy Schorr  
Department Chair



Judy Stafslie  
(adjunct)

Not pictured:  
Elizabeth Fox  
(adjunct)  
Brian Luckner  
(adjunct)

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