

Caine College of the Arts
Faculty and Staff Activities and Achievements
March 2012

Awards and Honors

Shawn Fisher, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, received a nomination and was a finalist for the MetLife Nuestras Voces Playwriting Award for his original play *Do Not Hit Golf Balls into Mexico* (developed at USU). He was one of seven selected for the New York-based award.

The Utah State University Chamber Singers, under the direction of Cory Evans, Associate Professor of Music, were featured on American Public Media's PERFORMANCE TODAY on Thursday, Dec. 22. This is a nationally syndicated radio program that plays live performances of the top vocal and instrumental ensembles from around the world.

Utah State Theatre's production of *Step on a Crack*, directed by Matt Omasta, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, was invited to perform as part of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival's Evening of Invitational Scenes at this year's Region VIII festival.

Creative Activity

Kevin Olson, Assistant Professor of Music, gave the following performances: January 6, 2012, Recital, Green Bay, WI; January 18, 2012, Raising Caine Concert; Logan, UT; January 20, 2012, Gala Concert; Logan, UT

Shawn Fisher, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, was invited for and completed three staged readings of shows: original play, *Do Not Hit Golf Balls into Mexico* Off-Broadway at the Spanish Repertory Theatre (Equity Theatre), NY; original play *How to Make a Rope Swing* at Cape May Stage (Equity Theatre), NJ; original play *How to Make a Rope Swing* at Salt Lake Acting Company (Equity Theatre) in Salt Lake City, UT. He was also selected for a full professional equity run of his original play *How to Make a Rope Swing* at Cape May Stage in NJ and designed sets and lights for John Logan's *Red* at the Cape May Stage. Additionally, he designed sets for Utah Festival Opera's *Faust* and Utah State Theatre's *Two-headed* by Julie Jensen.

Sylvia Munsen, Professor of Music and BTS Endowed Chair of Elementary Arts Education, conducted Cantate~Cache Children's Choir and the Madeleine School Choir in a performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem with the American Festival Chorus (Craig Jessop, conductor). These occurred in Logan and Salt Lake City, Nov. 11-12, 2011.

The Fry Street Quartet returned to Curitiba, Brazil for the third year in a row as visiting artists and faculty at the Oficina de Musica, Brazil's largest and longest-running music festival. The faculty is comprised of accomplished artists from around Europe, North, and South America. The quartet received a rave review for its formal concert and was broadcast on Brazilian television. Also, the Fry Street Quartet and Robert Davies gave their new presentation/performance called "Crossroads" on the issue of Global Sustainability. Curitiba is considered to be the second-most sustainable city in the world and has an extraordinary Environmental Ministry, members of which attended the performance and also hosted Dr. Davies in two more lectures. The Utah Climate Center is now sharing data with

the Environmental Ministry in Curitiba as a result, and the performance/presentation with the Quartet was extremely well-received.

Ryoichi Suzuki, Assistant Professor of Art, is in an exhibition entitled, "In good form" at the A Gallery in Salt Lake City. He also did the "Fire and Ice" installation as part of the Caine College of the Arts Celebration of the Arts.

Michael Ballam, Professor of Music, adjudicated the following events: Auditions, University of Houston, Houston, TX (Oct. 29, 2011); Auditions, Utah Opera, SLC, UT (Jan. 23, 2012); Musical Theatre Division, Utah Thespian Association, Utah Valley University, Orem, UT (Jan. 28, 2012).

Michael Ballam, Professor of Music, was an adjudicator/clinician/guest performer at the Senior Sampler, Southern Utah Senior Citizen Talent Competition at Cox Auditorium, Dixie State College, St. George, UT (Nov. 8, 2011).

Michael Ballam, Professor of Music, performed several recitals and performances: *Give My Regards: The American Musical Theatre*, Capitol Recital Hall at George Town, Grand Cayman (Nov. 15, 2011); *Celebrating Christmas: Music from 9th to 20th Century*, Lido Theatre in Roatan, Honduras (Nov. 17, 2011); *Christmas, American 19th Century Music*, Tulum Hall, Cozumel (Nov. 19, 2011); *A Celebration of Christmas*, Williamsburg Retirement Center, Logan, UT (Nov. 29, 2011); *A Celebration of Christmas*, Lewiston City, UT, (Dec. 11, 2011); *A Patriotic Celebration of Christmas*, American Legion, Logan, UT (Dec.13, 2011); *Christmas, A Historical Perspective*, County Court House, Logan, UT (Dec. 14, 2011); *A Pioneer Christmas*, Sons of the Utah Pioneers, Logan, UT (Dec. 15, 2011); *A Celebration of Christmas*, Sunshine Terrace, Logan, UT (Dec. 20, 2011); *A Celebration of Christmas*, Terrace Grove, Logan, UT (Dec. 21, 2011); Development Recitals to promote USU Summer Citizen program (Caine College of the Arts, Lyric Theatre, Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre: Sun City & Tucson, Arizona, Palm Springs & Palm Desert, California (Jan. 11-14, 2012); Promotional Program Honoring Service, Brigham City, UT (Jan. 18, 2012); Promotional Program for UFOMT and Old Lyric Repertory Company, Hyrum Civic Center, Hyrum, UT (Jan. 19, 2012).

Grants

Rachel Middleman, Assistant Professor of Art History, received two internal research grants: USU Vice President for Research Seed Grant--New Investigator Grant-writing Experience through Mentorship (GEM); Faculty Research Grant, Center for Women and Gender, Utah State University, Fall 2011.

Matt Omasta, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, received a \$5663 grant from the Marie Eccles Caine Foundation – Russell Family to develop an Educational Theatre Touring Production next year. They will produce *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank*, which will be performed at 10 high schools throughout the county and surrounding areas.

Ryoichi Suzuki, Assistant Professor of Art, received the following funding for projects and research: a \$20,000 GEM grant from USU; funding from the Larry Elsner Foundation; funding from the Caine College of the Arts; funding from the USU Art Department.

Presentations and Conference Papers

Kevin Olson, Assistant Professor of Music, gave a presentation in January for the Northwest Piano Teachers Forum in Green Bay, WI. It was also the premiere of his piano solo, "Northern Lights."

Sylvia Munsen, Professor of Music and BTS Endowed Chair of Elementary Arts Education, gave three international workshops: general music classes for Grades 2, 3 and 5 at Malmanger School, Kvinnherad School District in Rosendal, Norway, Nov. 11-12; half-day workshop for early childhood majors, Høgskolen i Bergen [Bergen University College], Bergen, Norway [Nov. 23] “*Early Childhood Music*”; workshop for talented and gifted secondary students participating in a special after-school program, Bergen Kultur skole [Bergen Culture School], Bergen, Norway [Nov. 24] “*Multi-Cultural Music and Dalcroze Eurhythmics*.” She also gave five state-wide workshops: 2012 UFOLKS Workshop (Utah state Kodaly Chapter); Salt Lake City (Jan. 21) “*Developing Expressive Singing and Independent Musicianship in the Choir and Classroom*”; Artsbridge – Reading in Motion Workshop, USU, Logan (Nov. 1) “*Techniques for use of instruments & Strategies for Teaching General Music*”; Arts Experience Workshop, USU, Logan (Oct. 29) “*Music in Early Childhood*”; Foundations of Bilingual & ESL Education, TEAL 4760/6760 (cross-listed course – face-to-face and distance), USU, Logan (Oct. 27), Patricia Ortiz, professor of class, “*Cultural Celebration – Multi-Cultural Music: Sing, Play, Move*”; Cache Valley School District Workshop; Logan (Oct. 25) “*Dalcroze Eurhythmics and Movement*.”

Adrienne Moore, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, dialect coached the Salt Lake Acting Company’s production of *Red*, a play about the painter Mark Rothko.

Michael Ballam, Professor of Music, gave the keynote address at the CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) National Conference, “Music and the Creative Arts as Valuable Learning Tools” SLC, UT (Nov. 6, 2011). He also spoke at a meeting regarding productions of lesser known and even unperformed works of Richard Rodgers in NYC, NY (Jan. 9, 2012) and gave a seminar entitled *Toe Tapping History of The American Musical Theatre* for the Utah Theatre Association Conference at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT (Jan. 27, 2012).

Publications

Kevin Olson, Assistant Professor of Music, published the following piano pedagogy books: *My Big and Easy Five-Finger Piano Book*, Volume 1. Fort Lauderdale, FL: FJH Music Company; *The Perfect Start For Note Reading, Book 3* (with Julia Olson). Fort Lauderdale, FL: FJH Music Company; *Purple Mountain Majesties*. Fort Lauderdale, FL: FJH Music Company; *Succeeding at the Piano, Grade 2B* (contributing writer). Fort Lauderdale, FL: FJH Music Company; *In Recital with Timeless Hymns, Books 1-6* (contributing writer). Fort Lauderdale, FL: FJH Music Company; *In Recital with Little Pieces for Little Fingers, Original Solos, Book 2* (contributing writer). Fort Lauderdale, FL: FJH Music Company; *In Recital for the Advancing Pianist, Original Solos, Book 2* (contributing writer). Fort Lauderdale, FL: FJH Music Company; *In Recital Ready, Set, Play! Original Solos, Book 1* (contributing writer). Fort Lauderdale, FL: FJH Music Company.

Michael Ballam, Professor of Music, had his work published in *Achieve It. 3rd Edition* by James Myron Crandall Holland, DBS., PhD, Xlibris Corp, ISBN 0-975-95370-2 pages 5, 21, 23, 34,35, 49, 64, 75, 76, (Dec. 2011).