

## School of Music

Dr. Thomas Clark, Director

## Student, faculty &amp; alumni news

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## Spreading SmartMusic

At the 2013 meeting of the Texas Society for Music Theory hosted by UNT, Dr. **Cynthia. I Gonzales**



presented "SmartMusic: The Efficacy of an Electronic Sight-Singing Tutor". She also participated in a TMEA panel of music educators hosted by SmartMusic and is available to assist Texas State School of Music alumni who want to implement use of SmartMusic with

their students. Currently writing an enhanced e-book titled *Harmonic Listening*, Dr. Gonzales has been invited to serve on the College Music Society's Instructional Technologies Committee.

## Jazz Bones go international

The Hill Country Jazz Bones have been named runner-up for the International Trombone Association's Kai Winding Jazz Trombone Ensemble Competition. The ensemble came in 2nd out of 30 international ensemble applicants. Along with the Texas State Trombone Choir, they have also been invited to perform at the International Trombone Festival this summer in Columbus, GA. Personnel include: **Kyle Johnson**, **Hayden Lumley**, **Kevin Dugat**, **Tate Hearn**, and **Jeremiah Ward**, trombones; **Philip Castro**, piano; **David Giordani**, bass; **Bryan Winslow**, guitar; **Nick Chacon**, drums; Dr. **Martin McCain** is their director.

## Vandergrift High

**Bobby Lopez**, Dr. **Adah Jones** and Dr. **Keith Winking** served as adjudicators for the Vandegrift High School Solo Competition Finals which were held on Friday, February 22. At Vandegrift, Director of Bands **Jeremy Spicer**, Associate Director **Michael Howard**, and Percussion Director **Paul Pape** are all Texas State Alumni.

## Trombonanza

In January, Dr. **Martin McCain** performed at the Metropolitan State University of Denver with the Minor 4<sup>th</sup> Trombone Quartet. The ensemble presented a masterclass and recital as featured artists for the 2013 Metrombonanza. The Minor 4<sup>th</sup> Trombone Quartet also performed at the TMEA convention on February 14. On February 9, Dr. McCain served as an adjudicator for the Klein ISD Solo and Ensemble Contest. The following day he performed a recital of Russian music at the historic Steinway Hall-Dallas for the Ensemble 75 concert series. McCain also hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas State Trombone Symposium February 22-24. Additionally, McCain has been invited to select the 2014 TMEA All-State Band bass trombone etudes.

## Switzerland, Germany, Newport Beach, San Diego

In January **Butch Miles** performed for a week with his quartet at Mariann's Jazz Room in Bern, Switzerland. On February 2 he performed in Erlangen, Germany, with an all-star international quintet for the annual Carnivale Festival. On February 8 he performed right here at Texas State with an all-star big band assembled by Dr. **Keith Winking** for the Hill Country Jazz Festival salute to Eddie Durham, featuring guest artists Doug Lawrence (star tenor soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra) and Vincent Herring. Next came a performance with jazz great Sammy Nestico and his LA All-Star Big Band as part of the Newport Beach Jazz Party from February 14 – 17. Butch finished up with performances at the San Diego Jazz Party from February 22-24.



Block, Green, Miles, Sportiello and Breinschmidt



Hamilton, Redd, Miles, and Wilson Miles, Sammy Nestico

### Traditional music in East Africa and the world

**Daris Hale** recently participated in the International GLOMUS Conference in Tanzania at the university that hosted her as a Fulbright Scholar. She assisted with preparations for 85 musicians from 24 countries to share the traditional music from their regions of the world. For 10 days they enjoyed regional presentations/performances by students and faculty from West Africa (Ghana and Mali), South Africa (South Africa and Mozambique), Nordic lands (Finland, Denmark, Sweden), Middle East (Egypt, Syria, Palestine), Malaysia, Tanzania (Mainland and Zanzibar), and Afghanistan. Organizing partners of GLOMUS included Sibelius School of Music, Royal Music Academy in Denmark, University of the Arts in Helsinki, and Malmo Music Academy in Sweden. On the first night of the conference, Hale presented opening remarks on her experience in Tanzania along with a chamber music concert for all the participants. In addition to GLOMUS, she was also one of the two lead writers on a \$2.5 million grant proposal to the European Developmental Commission for cultural heritage development in East Africa. The proposal has already made it past the first round and is going to final review, with results published in April.

### Bobcat Band news

The Bobcat Marching Band has been chosen to participate in the half-time video presentation session at the upcoming College Band Directors National Association Convention in Greensboro, NC. The band was honored with this achievement in 2011 while under the direction of **Caroline Beatty**; this year's Bobcat Marching Band Director is new music professor **Kyle Glaser**. To be selected for the conference presentation, band directors from colleges nationwide submit videos of half-time performances, which are ranked by a panel of judges based on several criteria. Ten collegiate marching bands were chosen to present videos at the 2013 conference, placing Texas State in elite company with: Arizona State, Baylor University, Georgia State, West Chester University, Bowling Green State, Western Carolina University, University of Texas, University of Florida, and University of Connecticut.



### Choral Artist in Residence

On February 11, Texas State University's new Artist-in-Residence, Dr. **Craig Hella Johnson**, spent an entire



day rehearsing with the Texas State Women's Choir under the direction of Dr. **Lynn Brinckmeyer** and the Texas State University Singers under the direction of Dr. **Jonathan Babcock**. He also spoke at a seminar for the graduate choral students. Dr. Johnson brings a vast knowledge of choral artistry and technique to these recurring sessions. Craig Hella Johnson is the Artistic Director of the Grammy-nominated choral ensemble *Conspirare*. Renowned as one of today's most influential voices in choral conducting, he is known for crafting musical journeys that create deep connections between performers and listeners. *The Wall Street Journal* praised his ability to "find the emotional essence other performers often miss," and *Fanfare* wrote that "Craig Hella Johnson has assembled and molded a first-rate choir to be respected as highly as the best we have had."

### Seguin, State Capitol, Embassy

In January the Hill Country Youth Chorus, under the direction of Dr. **Lynn Brinckmeyer**, participated at the Sixth Annual Children and Youth Choral Festival at Texas Lutheran University. In early February, the choir was also invited to perform at the State Capitol Building in Austin and for the San Marcos State of the City, at the Embassy Suites Conference Center.

## Texas State at TMEA Convention in San Antonio

The Texas Music Educators Association's annual Convention/Clinic held this February and attracting 26,000 participants from across Texas and the U.S., featured these Texas State alumni, faculty, and staff:

**John Lopez** and guest Victor Rendon gave a clinic on "Advanced Latin Rhythm Section Techniques," assisted by Texas State's Salsa del Rio.



Rendon, Lopez

**Martin McCain** performed with his professional colleagues in the Minor 4th Trombone Quartet. He also directed a Texas State Trombone Choir Showcase performance and was an exhibitor for Michael Rath Instruments.

**Raul Rodriguez** conducted the Euphonium/Tuba/String Bass sectional rehearsal for the 5A Concert Band.

**Daris Hale** led All-State Bassoon Sectionals.

**Keith Winking** led Trumpet sectional for the 5A All-State Symphonic Band and conducted the Euphonium/Tuba/String Bass sectional rehearsal for the 5A Concert Band.

**Lynn Brinckmeyer** and **John Schmidt** led the annual Sigma Alpha Iota Sing Along.

**Russel Haight** gave a clinic, "Moving Targets: Using Goal Notes to Build Effective Jazz Solos".

**Amy Simmons** presided over the College Division Research Poster Session.

**Cynthia Gonzales** gave a presentation, "SmartMusic for the Middle and High School Director".

Texas State alumni **Amanda Mariño-Stevenson**, **Kimberly Beene**, and **Steven Hopkins** gave a clinic, "If you can make it through those first Five Years".

Texas State's College Night booth, attracting hundreds of high school students and parents, was coordinated by administrative staff **Krystyn Jensen**.

Texas State School of Music alumni reception was hosted by **Thomas Clark** and coordinated by administrative staff **Cindy Dean**.

**John Schmidt** accompanied the annual Sinfonia Sing.

Alumnus **Nathan Smith** co-presented a clinic, "Help! I'm a Wind Player Not a Percussionist".

**Lynn Brinckmeyer** gave a clinic, "Advocacy for Dummies!"

**Adah Jones** judged the 5A All-State flute auditions.

**Mary Ellen Cavitt** serves as TMEA Region 18 College Chair.

**Joey Martin** conducted the Texas Two-Year College All-State Choir performance, featuring solo marimbist **Kari Klier** in the premiere of a commissioned new choral work by Dominick di Orio.

