

Round Rock speaker

Dr. **Nico Schüler** was among four Texas State professors selected for this year's prestigious Round Rock Speaker Series and the first ever from the School of Music. On October 7, he gave a lecture on "Mental Health &

Illness and its Relationship to Artistic Creativity," in which he explored how creativity and mental health & illness relate to each other. Examples included visual artist Vincent van Gogh, composer Robert Schumann, dancer Vaslav Nijinski, photographer Richard Avedon, playwright Eugene O'Neill, and pianist David Helfgott.



Fingerstyle champion

Mark Anthony Cruz placed first in the Winfield International Fingerstyle Competition on September 19th in Winfield, Kansas. He was chosen unanimously out of forty competitors from across the US and as far as Japan. Cruz will be featured in the upcoming issue of the on-line periodical, Fingerstyle 360.



Presti, a guitar trio whose members reside in New Mexico, Texas and England, have released their first CD, which features Cruz's trio arrangement of his original composition, *Mérida*.

Saxophonist awards

Todd Oxford was recently honored with two "Global Music Awards" (1) Best in Show for his solo CD "Finesse" and (2) Award of Excellence for his CD performance of "Radiant Blues". He is the recipient of a Co-Op Press Grant/Composers Commission resulting in a new solo work for saxophone and guitar, "Modern Jazz Suite", to be premiered in the spring.

Tracks from his solo CD's "Tango Magnetism", "Finesse", and "Radiant Blues" were recently broadcast on the WSMC 90.5 "Chattanooga Symphony Hour" radio show and the SciFi4Me.com "Level Eleventy-Seven" radio podcast.

Oxford's soprano saxophone arrangement of Vivaldi's Sonata in C minor is being published by Dorn Publications. He has been busy recording works for inclusion on a new solo CD to be released



internationally in the spring. The final work, a world premiere, was recorded in collaboration with guest composer David Heckendorn,

Caroline Beatty, and the Texas State Wind Symphony. Organized and hosted by Oxford, Heckendorn's residency consisted of a student concert featuring his chamber works and a series of presentations to the Music Ed, Theory, and Composition classes.

World premiere in Dallas

School of Music Director **Thomas Clark** received a world premiere performance of his newest composition at the Perot Museum of Nature & Science in Dallas on October 4. *Angels of Bright Splendor* (2013) featured Elizabeth Hance, flute, and computer music created by the composer at Texas State. The museum event was part of a

weekend festival, CEMiCircles, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Center for Experimental Music and Intermedia, which Clark formerly directed.

(L: at museum with son Owen, wife Beth)



Guest hornist

William VerMeulen, principal horn of the Houston Symphony Orchestra and professor at Rice University was in residence October 8-9 at Texas State University. Performers in the VerMeulen masterclass were **Esteban Garcia**, horn, **Brandon Pauley**, trumpet, **Riaz Mohammed**, horn, **Antonio Noriega**, trombone, and **David Ortiz**, horn. Professor VerMeulen gave a solo recital with Texas State faculty member **Faith DeBow**.



Students attending the master class, left to right: **Joseph Longoria**, **Riaz Mohammed**, alumna **Alexis Szczepanik**, **Esteban Garcia**, VerMeulen, **David Ortiz**.

Alumni are contest winners

Vandergriff High School (Leander) recently won the 4A State marching band contest. All three of the directors are Texas State alumni: **Jeremy Spicer**, **Paul Pape**, and **Mike Howard**. Other TxState alumni directors of successful groups included: 4A 3rd place Vista Ridge High School (Leander) Assistant Director **Kyle Ruschhaupt**; 4A 6th place Connally High School (Pflugerville) Assistant Directors **Anna Rodriguez** and **Jason Russell**; 4A 19th place Brennan High School (Northside) Director of Bands **Roxanne Vickers**; 4A 26th place Foster High School (Lamar) Assistant Director **Chris Crummel**.

NATS singing successes in Waco

The voice area took 28 student singers to Waco for the annual regional competition of NATS, the National Association of Teachers of Singing. All had positive learning experiences, with 15 advancing to the semi-finals and three of those all the way to the finals, all students of **Cheryl Parrish**.



L to R:
Jasmine Haghghatian,
4th Place Graduate Women
Spencer Reichman,
1st Place Senior Men
Morghan Parker, 2nd
Place Freshmen Women

Pianists Dr. **Eric Thompson**, Dr. Kayla Chon, and Charmaine Flake played an important part in the singers' successes.

Mariachi finalists

Texas State students **Nelson Ruiz** (below left) and **Robert Casillas** (right) have been selected as finalists to participate in the solo voice competition of the 19th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza next month in San Antonio.



Collegiate Women

Dr. **Lynn Brinckmeyer** and the Texas State Women's Choir hosted the 2013 Texas Collegiate Women's Choral Festival in late October in Evans Auditorium. Associate Director of Choral Activities at The Ohio State University, Dr. Kristina MacMullen, directed the festival choir of 150, accompanied by our own Dr. **Eric Thompson**. Percussion students **Inez Rodriguez** and **Jose Garza** (on the box drums below) also participated in the festival.



New CD gets rave review

The Web site Lucid Culture, Jazz, Classical Music and Everything In Between, offers an enthusiastic review titled "Exhilarating Nuyorican-Flavored Jazz from Trumpeter **Pete Rodriguez**". Dr. Pete's new album, "Cominando Con Papi," has already been nominated for a Grammy award. The review says, "Not only is this one of the best jazz albums of the year, it's one of the best albums in any style of music released in 2013."