

MUSIC GAZETTE

POMONA COLLEGE

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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Spring '20

SPRING CLOSURE

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, Pomona College decided to cancel all public events after March 15. In addition, students will not return to campus after Spring Break but will continue their classes online. In order to give a sense of the activities in the Music Department during a normal spring semester, this issue of the *Music Gazette* reflects events that took place before March 15 and events that were planned later.

PRISM CONCERT

PRISM, a new 17-voice professional choral ensemble based in Los Angeles, presented a concert on Friday, February 14 in Bridges Hall of Music as part of Family Weekend. Under the leadership of **Adrien Redford** ('14) and **Donna M. Di Grazia**, co-artistic directors, and **Hayden Eberhart** ('08), administrative director, the program featured secular and sacred choral music on themes of love and faith from England, Italy and early America, with works by Billings, Gesualdo, Ingalls, Lasso, Tallis, Taverner, Vaughan Williams, de Wert and others.

PUNJABI DRUMMING

Ustad Lal Singh Bhatti and the Los Angeles Folk Arts club presented a program of Punjabi *bhangra* dance and drumming from India and the diaspora in Lyman Hall on February 26 as part of a residency organized by **Gibb Schreffler**.

PERFORMING ORGANIZATIONS

POMONA COLLEGE CHOIR, conducted by Donna M. Di Grazia, was scheduled to collaborate with the Pomona College Orchestra, conducted by Eric Lindholm, to perform Mozart's *Requiem* and the *Schicksalslied* by Brahms on April 17 and 19, with rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The ensemble presented a read-through of the program on March 12 in Bridges Hall of Music.

POMONA COLLEGE GLEE CLUB, also conducted by Professor Di Grazia, was scheduled to perform choral music from across the centuries in Bridges Hall of Music on April 30 and May 2 and undertake a tour to Spain after Commencement. They were also scheduled to perform at the 100th birthday celebration of Albert J. McNeil, professor emeritus from the University of California, Davis, and founding director of the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers of Los Angeles, a professional touring choir devoted to the preservation of the spiritual and other music from the African diaspora. Rehearsals were Tuesdays, 11:10 a.m. - 12:40 p.m., and Thursdays, 4:10-5:40 p.m., with sectionals as arranged. The Glee Club performed as part of the 90th annual Pacific Southwest Intercollegiate Choral Association festival, which was hosted by Pomona College on February 29 in Bridges Hall of Music, and presented a read-through of their concert program on March 12.

POMONA COLLEGE ORCHESTRA, conducted by Eric Lindholm, gave concerts March 6 and 8, featuring Mahler's Symphony No. 1. **Andrew Acs ('20)**, co-winner of the orchestra's 2019 Concerto Competition, was the soloist in the Euphonium Concerto by Joseph Horowitz. On April 17 and 19 the orchestra was scheduled to join the Pomona College Choir performing Mozart's *Requiem* and Brahms' *Schicksalslied*. Rehearsals were Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

POMONA COLLEGE BAND, conducted by Graydon Beeks, was scheduled to perform works by Robert Russell Bennett, John Frantzen, Henry Fillmore, Gustav Holst and others on May 2 and 3, with rehearsals on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:45-8:10 p.m. The ensemble gave an Imaginary Concert of their program on March 11 in Bridges Hall of Music.

POMONA COLLEGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE, directed by Barb Catlin, gave a concert featuring small combos and student arrangements in Lyman Hall on March 10. Another concert was scheduled in Bridges Hall of Music on May 1. Rehearsals were Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15-5:45 p.m.

POMONA COLLEGE BALINESE GAMELAN ENSEMBLE, directed by Nyoman Wenten, met Mondays from 4:00-6:30 p.m. and was scheduled to present a program of Balinese music and dance on May 4.

POMONA COLLEGE AFRO-CUBAN DRUMMING ENSEMBLE under the direction of Joe Addington met Monday evenings from 6:30-9:15 p.m. and was scheduled to present a concert of Afro-Cuban music on April 27.

FACULTY NEWS

Music theorist **Alfred Cramer** gave presentations on cognitive and linguistic aspects of Woody Guthrie's music, focusing on schema and meaning in *This Land Is Your Land*, at the Society for Music Perception and Cognition's conference in New York in August and at the Society for Music Theory's annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio in November. As a violinist, he participated in a Faculty Showcase Recital at the University of Redlands. On campus in February he played baroque violin in works by Roman and Telemann with the Cornucopia Baroque Ensemble, and in March he performed works by twentieth-century composers Marion Bauer, Ruth Crawford, Charles Seeger, Miriam Gideon, and William Grant Still on a Friday Noon Concert with pianist Katie Franklin Ledsinger.

Donna M. Di Grazia is the current President of the Pacific Southwest Intercollegiate Choral Association, and their 90th Annual Festival was hosted by Pomona College on February 29, with some 400 singers from eight universities and colleges participating. Also in February the vocal ensemble PRISM, for which she is co-artistic director with **Adrien Redford ('14)**, performed a concert in Bridges Hall of Music. The Southern California Early Music Society published an article on the ensemble in the January 2020 issue of its newsletter (www.earlymusicla.org/newsletter - see "PRISM Presents the Pomona College Concert"). In the fall semester she will be teaching a new seminar aimed at music majors titled "Seminar in Music History, c.1750-1920: Composers at Work and the Public Consumption of Music."

The history of several of Pomona College's most enduring college songs went online at <http://choral.pomona.edu/college-songs> in January. Researched and written by **Matthew Cook ('20)** and Professor Di Grazia, it is the culmination of work

undertaken since 2017, the goal of which was to offer a transparent and thoughtful summary of the history of these songs, not only to inform current students, but also so all readers might have a clearer view of how the songs intersect with the history of the College as a whole.

Tom Flaherty organized the 28th Annual Ussachevsky Memorial Festival of Electro Acoustic Music in February. It consisted of two concerts of music by Christopher Cerrone, Jorge Villavicencio Grosssman, Von Hansen and others, and a lecture/demo by guest composer Cerrone. Prof. Flaherty's setting of *If truth in hearts that perish* was premiered by soprano **Melissa Givens** and pianist **Genevieve Feiwen Lee** at a memorial service for Professor of Biology Jonathan Wright in March.

Last fall, Prof. Flaherty's Cello Concerto was premiered by cellist Robert deMaine and pianist **Genevieve Feiwen Lee** in Bridges Hall of Music in September. On the same concert his *Die Schöne Mullerin Report* was premiered by **Melissa Givens**, soprano, **Scott Graff**, baritone, **Joti Rockwell**, mandola, **Cynthia Fogg**, viola, **Tom Flaherty**, cello, and **Genevieve Feiwen Lee**, piano. The Pomona College Band, conducted by **Stephen Klein**, presented first performances of *Reeding the Scales* with clarinet soloist Leslie Schroerlucke in November.

Prof. Flaherty played his *Aftermath* for solo cello for the Los Angeles Violoncello Society in October and performed Beethoven's String Quartet op. 135 as a member of the Quartet Euphoria on a Friday Noon Concert in December.

In January, **Melissa Givens** participated in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Winter Workshop, which included sessions on Alexander Technique and Alignment and Posture for Singing, as well as a Mentored Teaching Experience with NATS President Karen Brunsson.

In February, Prof. Givens performed two concerts with the professional choir Conspirare: a public concert at Texas State University, San Marcos, in which she sang the solo in Craig Johnson's *Motherless Child*, and a private performance for the Texas Board of Regents, which met at the same venue. Also in February she served as judge for the Diamond Bar Branch VOCE auditions, adjudicating voice, instrumental, and ensemble performers for potential advancement to the state finals.

On February 21, Prof. Givens appeared on a Friday Noon Concert along with Prof. Anne Harley of Scripps College, performing art songs by African American composers, including Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Undine Smith Moore, and Harry T. Burleigh. On February 22-23, she was the soprano soloist in Jodi Goble's *True Witness* in performances at Scripps College and Chaffey College given by the combined forces of the Claremont Concert Choir, Chaffey College Choir, the Crossroads Choir, and the children's choirs of Holy Family Church under the direction of Prof. Charles Kamm of Scripps College. In March she judged the Young Texas Artists Music Competition in Conroe, Texas.

Last fall, **Genevieve Feiwen Lee** and **Aron Kallay** performed Kurt Rohde's *Altromondo* for piano 4-hands and assorted items at the Villa Aurora in Pacific Palisades, CA, in preparation for recording the piece in New York. Prof. Lee also took part in the premiere of a piece by **Tom Flaherty**: *Die Schöne Mullerin Report* for soprano, baritone, viola, mandola, cello, and piano, and collaborated with several Pomona faculty members and Brightwork newmusic on a program of Reich, Monk, and Andriessen. On the Friday Noon Concert series, Prof. Lee played works of Fauré and Haydn with cellist **Maggie Parkins** and violinist Sara Parkins, co-members of the Mojave Trio.

This spring, Prof. Lee participated in the 28th Annual Ussachevsky Memorial Festival of

Electro Acoustic Music, performing Jorge Villavencencio Grossman's *Dois Aforismos come Interlúdio* for piano and electronics, and gave a solo recital on harpsichord and piano with works by Couperin, Schumann, and Crumb. For the performance of Crumb's *Makrokosmos*, Vol. II, a large screen and camera were set up on stage to project the extended techniques played inside the piano. Also in February, the Mojave Trio presented a program of new works by Gao Ping and Kaija Saariaho and an early Beethoven trio.

Eric Lindholm's work with the Pomona College Orchestra this season included Suppé's overture to *Poet and Peasant*, Symphonies in D major by Brahms (No. 2) and Mahler (No. 1), and Takemitsu's *To the Edge of Dream* with faculty guitar soloist **Jack Sanders**. Two student soloists were featured as winners of the annual Concerto Competition: **Hana Burgess (SCR '22)** in Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No. 2, and **Andrew Acs ('20)** in Horowitz's Euphonium Concerto. **Oliver Dubon ('20)** appeared as a guest conductor with the *Elegy* by John Corigliano, under Prof. Lindholm's guidance. Prof. Lindholm's work as department chair included consulting with the Development Office on a major gift to facilitate student attendance at major performances in downtown Los Angeles. Next academic year, he intends to create performing editions of music by Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745-1799) and to orchestrate a set of songs by Florence Price (1887-1953).

Joti Rockwell is on sabbatical this spring working on a project involving music and motion. In January, he played electric guitar and mandocello in the Ussachevsky Memorial Festival, and he continues to perform on mandolin-family instruments, electric guitar, and pedal steel guitar.

Gibb Schreffler has been preparing the manuscript for a monograph entitled *Beat That Drum Which Hangs from Your Neck: Dhol and Identity in Modern Punjab*. The work is the result of fresh field research

conducted last year during his Steele Leave. In Fall 2019, he presented excerpts from this research at the Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting (Bloomington, IN) and at an Oldenburg Lunch Colloquium on campus. Also related to this subject area of Punjabi drumming and dance, he published a short article on *bhangra* dance in *The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Music and Culture* (2019). During the Spring 2020 semester, Prof. Schreffler is teaching a revised version of the course "Music in Punjabi Culture." In conjunction with that course, in February he coordinated a guest residency by Punjabi master drummer Ustad Lal Singh Bhatti and the bhangra dance group Los Angeles Folk Arts Club.

EMERITUS FACULTY

In February **Graydon Beeks** joined his Cornucopia Baroque Ensemble colleagues **Alfred Cramer**, baroque violin, Aki Nishiguchi, baroque oboe and recorder, **Carolyn Beck**, baroque bassoon, Roger Lebow, baroque cello, and **Jason Yoshida**, theorbo, in a Friday Noon Concert of music by Boismortier, Roman and Telemann.

Karl Kohn's *Before Beethoven* for clarinet, cello, and piano (1989), composed to be performed preceding Beethoven's Trio for the same instrumentation, will be given in that manner in Vienna on June 22.

William Peterson presented a concert on the Hill Memorial Organ in Bridges Hall of Music on February 2. The program included works composed by Sweelinck, Frescobaldi, Buxtehude, and Bruhns in the first half and works by César Franck in the second half. Last fall, Prof. Peterson and James Peterson, professor emeritus at Valdosta State University, presented a paper titled "Belief, Czech and Slovak Involvement in World War I, and Czechoslovak State Creation: Counterpoints to Rationality in Politics and Music" at the National Meeting of The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in San Francisco, California, in November.

CURRENT STUDENTS

Baritone **Zachary Freiman ('20)** presented a Senior Recital of music by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Poulenc and others on March 7. Freiman is a music major who has studied voice with **Gwendolyn Lytle** and **Scott Graff** and currently with **Melissa Givens**. He studies piano with **Phillip Young**.

Baritone **Matthew Cook ('20)** was scheduled to present a Senior Recital of music by Bach, Chausson, Gershwin, Mozart and Schumann on April 4. Cook is a music major and studies voice with **Scott Lehmkuhl** and organ with **William Peterson**.

Guitarist **Jack Szulc-Donnell ('21)** was scheduled to present a Junior Recital of music by Brouwer, Takemitsu, Shostakovich and Villa-Lobos on April 11. Szulc-Donnell is a music major and studies guitar with **Jack Sanders**.

Piano students of **Genevieve Feiwen Lee** planned to present a piano ensemble recital of music by Brahms, Dvořák, Fauré and others on April 3.

Euphonium player **Andrew Acs ('20)** was the winner of the Pomona College Orchestra's 2019 Concerto Competition and was the soloist in the Euphonium Concerto by Joseph Horowitz with the ensemble on March 6 and 8. He was also selected to participate in the Intercollegiate Band at the Western and Northwestern Division Conference of the College Band Directors National Association at the University of Puget Sound later in the same month. Acs is a linguistics major and music minor who studies euphonium with **Stephen Klein**.

Tuba player **Oliver Dubon ('20)** was selected to participate in the Intercollegiate Band at the Western and Northwestern Division Conference of the College Band Directors National Association at the University of Puget Sound in March. Dubon is a music major who studies tuba with **Stephen Klein**, composition with **Tom Flaherty** and piano with **Aron Kallay**.

ALUMNI NEWS

Barbara B. Smith ('42), pioneer ethnomusicologist and University of Hawai'i Professor Emerita, will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 12 at the East-West Center in Honolulu. The occasion will be marked by a conference in her honor on June 10-11, which has been timed to coincide with the Festival of Pacific Arts 2020, both recognizing Dr. Smith's contributions to the study of musical arts of the Asia-Pacific region.

Megan Kaes Long ('08) will have her first book, *Hearing Homophony: Tonal Expectation at the Turn of the Seventeenth Century*, published in April by Oxford University Press. She has also been awarded an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) fellowship for the 2020–21 academic year for a new project, "Complicating the Modal Paradigm with the Music of William Byrd."

Jeremy Taylor ('18) has been accepted into the graduate program at the University of Southern California, where he will be working toward an MM degree in vocal arts.

Music at Pomona College

Spring 2020 Concert Calendar

(see the concert calendar online with updates at www.pomona.edu/concert-calendar)

Spring Courses 2020

Music Theory

4	Materials of Music	MWF 10	Thatcher 109	Genevieve Lee
80	Music Theory I	MWF 10	Thatcher 210	Tom Flaherty
82	Music Theory II	MW 1:15	Thatcher 109	Alfred Cramer
96b	Electronic Music	TTh 1:15	Thatcher 200	Tom Flaherty

Music History and Appreciation

51	Engaging Music	TTh 1:15	Thatcher 109	Eric Lindholm
62	Survey of American Music	TTh 2:45	Thatcher 212	Melissa Givens
60	History of Jazz	TTh 2:45	Thatcher 109	Bobby Bradford
65	Intro to World Music	TTh 1:15	Thatcher 210	Gibb Schreffler
71	Music in Punjabi Culture	MW 2:45	Thatcher 212	Gibb Schreffler
91	Sound, Cognition, & History	MW 2:45	Thatcher 109	Alfred Cramer
121	Seminar in Music History	MW 11	Thatcher 212	Malachai Bandy

Notable Courses Fall 2020

51	Engaging Music	TTh 9:35	Thatcher 109	Joti Rockwell
122	Seminar in Music History	TTh 9:35	Thatcher 212	Donna M. Di Grazia