

Music

Keene State College
Fall 2007

Music Department Alumni Gather for the First-Ever Jazz Reunion

DENIS A. LAMBERT '00 ALUMNI CORRESPONDENT

Former KSC Jazz Band director and founder Bill Pardus leads the band through a **Phil Martin '76** solo.

On June 2, 2007, Music Department alumni gathered for the first-ever KSC Jazz Ensemble reunion. The event drew 45 former band members. **Brenda Jean (B. J.) Thomas '77** spearheaded the reunion, working with the Music Department, Alumni Association, and Jazz Ensemble Reunion Committee to plan and carry out the event. She called people, sent out mass e-mails, and spent countless hours on the project. Participants who reflected on the experience afterward agreed that the day was a great success and credited B. J. with getting people to attend.

The jazz reunion was held in conjunction with KSC's annual reunion. As alumni mingled in the Night Owl Café, a slideshow of photos spanning the history of the Jazz Ensemble was projected (courtesy of **Mike Wakefield**) on a wall of the room.

After enjoying a buffet-style meal of salmon, vegetable primavera, and almond chicken (plus cheesecake with berries for dessert), alumni "jazzers" took out their instruments and performed together. They played a variety of charts – some suggested by participants in advance – with Professor Emeritus **Bill Pardus** and Professor **Don Baldini** taking turns leading the group.

Some of the participants had not played their instruments regularly in recent years, while others have performed continuously since college. If there was a mixture of talent levels in the ensemble, though, it was scarcely noticed by the sizable audience gathered in the Night Owl Café to listen to the music. The band sounded good ... very good. Even



Members of the KSC Jazz Band reunion "swinging" in June.

more importantly, participants had fun playing together.

The event brought together individuals who went on after graduation to careers in health care, jewellery, information technology, sales, music education (of course!), and other fields. Attendees included **Jim Murphy '74, John Devlin '73, Dave Taylor '74, Steve Armstrong, Denis Lambert '00, Christopher Weber '76, Gail (Silver) Wood, Brenda Jean Thomas '78, Phil Martin '76, Donna Dearth, Chrissy Walker '03, David LaFond, Susan Peghiny Faccenda '80, Nancy Whitaker '77, Stephanie Hurley, Samantha Stewart, Anneka Toomey, Matt Doiron, Jim Stewart, Scott Mullett, Jason Holmes '04, Joyana Damon '97, Zack Jakub, James MacDonald '74, and Jed Rosen.** KSC Music Department faculty members **Craig Sylvern** and **Jim Chesebrough** also sat in with their horns, and at least one spouse joined in the music making.

The alumni traveled to Keene from various parts of New Hampshire and from New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Illinois. Jim Murphy, a member of the original Jazz Ensemble, wrote, "To play under Bill again was a real highlight! He still has all those Pardus mannerisms." Jim also enjoyed playing under Don Baldini, whom he had not gotten to work with previously. "It was a lot of fun and great to realize that I could still read a chart," he wrote.

"It was fantastic that so many people came, and the performance level was outstanding," wrote trumpeter Christopher Weber. "It was like we never left, even though more than 30 years have gone by since I last saw some of them."

For Gail (Silver) Wood, it had been more than 30 years since she last played in a jazz ensemble. But any nervousness felt near the beginning of the event quickly faded. "Kudos to B. J. and others for a job well done," she wrote.

Chrissy Walker wrote, "I played the whole time, and it felt great. I haven't had many opportunities to play my horn since graduation. The reunion gave me a reason to get my chops back in shape, and, sure enough, just like riding a bike, I felt like it was four years ago."

B. J. Thomas credited several individuals with helping turn the musical reunion into a reality. For her and others, the day was a special opportunity to reconnect and meet new people. "I hope everyone experienced even an iota of the familial love and joy I felt that day," she wrote afterward. Of the performance B. J. said, "I was especially impressed by the original members ... who played for more than three hours with only one break!"

The KSC Jazz Ensemble was formed in 1970-71 by Bill Pardus. In 1993, Don Baldini became director of the group. Since its inception, the Jazz Ensemble has performed at the College countless times. It has also made at least two recordings and performed at MENC conferences. The idea for the reunion began with an e-mail message from B. J. to Pardus about two years ago and eventually took on a life of its own. The Jazz Reunion Committee met monthly for almost a year to plan the event. Most participants expressed their hope that another reunion would be held in the near future. A few even suggested making it an annual event.



Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural Keene State College Music Department alumni newsletter.

This is an exciting time for Keene State! Enrollments are up, new and innovative programs are being unveiled, and our status as a fine liberal arts institution garners regional and national attention. The campus recently adopted a new Integrative Studies program to replace its General Education program and established a four-credit curriculum model to replace its three-credit model. These changes were designed to increase the breadth and depth of our courses, improve students' knowledge and skills across the disciplines, and bring more innovative ideas to the classroom. The College is transforming itself academically and physically in time for its Centennial celebration in 2008 and 2009. (Keene State was founded as Keene Normal School in 1909.)

The Music Department has much to celebrate, too! We have a strong tradition of educating musicians and music teachers who have gone forth to serve their communities with the joys of music, and we've been a leading cultural institution for the Monadnock region for decades. This academic year, the Music Department offers 33 concerts and recitals – student recitals, ensemble concerts, faculty recitals, guest artist recitals – in a wide range of styles and genres. We've included the Music Department Events Calendar in this newsletter. We hope to see you at one or more of these wonderful events.

Our work in the classroom is equally varied and impressive. We now offer degrees in music education, music performance, music technology, composition, music history, music theory, and music for elementary teachers, an individualized major in music, and a music minor. We also serve the entire campus with music elective courses, Integrative Studies courses, ensembles, and applied music lessons. Finally, we're proud that all of our programs are fully accredited by the prestigious National Association of Schools of Music. (Pssst! We're the only department at Keene State fully accredited by a national accrediting agency. Pass it on!)

Please call or e-mail me if you have questions or comments about the department. Best wishes to all!

Joseph Darby, Chairperson
Music Department
jdarby@keene.edu
603-358-2140

Keene State College
229 Main Street • Keene NH 03435-2402
603-358-2177 • Fax 603-358-2973
music@keene.edu
academics.keene.edu/music/



Senior Amy Patryn Travels to Guatemala

The motto of Keene State College is "Enter to learn; go forth to serve." KSC senior Amy Patryn, a Music Education major, took this ideal to heart when she joined 18 KSC students and staff in Guatemala as part of Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program this past January. The group experienced life and helped to build two homes for families in this Central American country.

According to the Keene State College *Equinox*, this was Keene State's sixth trip to this region of Guatemala. The trip was comprised of three KSC staff leaders, two student leaders who had participated in the 2006 trip, and 13 student participants. Amy and the team visited the city of Panajachel, on the shore of Lake Atitlán, and worked in the town of Rabinal.

During the trip, members of the group experienced a different lifestyle and physical challenges. Not all the food they encountered agreed well with their systems, but most victims recovered within 24 hours. Their task was to build two foundations without using electricity, so concrete was mixed by hand with shovels. After mixing concrete, team members installed rebar frames to support the concrete. The builders worked together to accomplish this task by hand. In an interview for *The Equinox* Amy recalled, "My favorite part was the bucket brigade. We really worked as a team and had to pay attention. It was also the most physical work we did, and it felt good to be tired at the end of the day from working so hard."

When she is not traveling the world building homes, Amy is an honor student in the Music Department, performing on the clarinet and preparing to student teach.

Material for this article was taken from an article by J. J. Prior in The Equinox. Issue date: February 1, 2007.

Tyler Reed Receives Hildebrandt Award

Tyler Reed, a trumpet performance major at KSC, was recognized at the 10th Annual Charles Hildebrandt Holocaust Studies Awards Program held on April 15, 2007, at the Redfern Arts Center. He received his award for his multimedia composition, *Remembrance*.

The award ceremony was part of Yom Ha-Shoah, an international remembrance of the Holocaust. The Hildebrandt Awards ceremony is a Keene State event that remembers the Holocaust by way of student and community art. The award honors Charles Hildebrandt, Keene State College's professor emeritus in sociology and founder of the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies. The award is given in recognition of excellence in Holocaust Studies. The breadth of the award categories has grown from the initial Keene State College student entries to high school and community entries. Students and members of the local community are invited to submit essays, historical analyses, stories, poems, musical compositions, dance, film, theatre, and visual arts exploring and expressing their own personal relationship to or reflections on the Holocaust.

This is one of a number of awards that Tyler has received during his studies at Keene State, and it is the second time that he has received the award for his compositions. Tyler is a member of the concert band, jazz band, orchestra, brass ensemble, concert choir, and his own jazz combo, and he somehow manages to find time to compose his own music on the side.



KSC Makes Music

This year, the Keene State College Music Department and the Redfern Arts Center have scheduled as many concerts and activities as the Alumni Recital Hall and Main Stage Theatre can hold. One of the most exciting is the Kaddish world premiere on Saturday, May 3, 2008, in the Main Theatre of the Redfern Arts Center. This project was conceived by the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College to commemorate the Cohen Center's 25th anniversary in 2008. At the heart of the project is an original musical work, *Kaddish*, by composer Lawrence Siegel. This moving composition will take audiences on a musical journey through the memories and words of survivors, bystanders, and even perpetrators of the Holocaust. The text of the work will be adapted from testimonies and stories collected in interviews and research in the United States and abroad. The musical score, written for soloists, a chorus, and a large chamber ensemble, will culminate in a message of hope and peace that extends beyond lines of religion, race, and background. *Kaddish* will premiere in the spring of 2008 in Keene, and performances in important domestic and international cultural centers will follow.

Other highlights this year include Alpha Yaya Diallo and The Bafing Riders on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Recital Hall. This thrilling evening of West African music and dance features guitarist and singer Alpha Yaya Diallo from Guinea. He is one of the hottest acts on the current world music scene. His dexterous acoustic and electric guitar playing, with its fluid melodic lines and compelling grooves, places him in the front ranks of African axemen and popular international artists.

On Tuesday, November 13, the KSC Music Department presents the Keene State College Latin American Ensemble with The Alturas Duo, directed by José Lezcano. This ensemble is recognized for its popular concerts of traditional urban music from countries such as Cuba, Ecuador, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, and Bolivia. In a special concert the ensemble will host and play with the world-renowned Alturas Duo, the only group of its kind. The Alturas Duo formed with the idea of playing South American and classical music by bringing together the unusual combination of the viola, charango, and guitar.

Be sure not to miss The Baltimore Consort on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Recital Hall as they celebrate the music of England, Scotland, France, Italy, and Spain. Since their last appearance in Keene in 1999, they have continued to delight audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. Their arrangements speak to the heart and their love of the early music of England and Scotland. This has led them to explore the

rich trove of traditional balladry and dance tunes preserved in the Appalachian Mountains and Nova Scotia.

This year Keene State will present *Starting Here, Starting Now*, directed by Vaughn West, with musical direction by Tom Martin. Running Wednesday, November 14, through Saturday, November 17, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the Young Student Center, this intimate revue by Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire takes a bold, extroverted journey through the maze of modern relationships. Tender ballads, hysterical husband-haunting laments, wry comments on trendy marriages, and ecstatic shouting-from-the-rooftop celebration promise to deliver an enthusiastic evening of musical theatre that will leave you wanting more.

The Eroica Trio is the most polished and famous piano trio to ever visit Keene. On Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. they will grace the stage of the Alumni Recital Hall playing the great standards of the piano trio repertoire and daring contemporary works.

There are few sounds more beautiful than music exquisitely sung a cappella, and few sing it as beautifully as the Tapestry Vocal Ensemble. On Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. they will perform medieval repertory and contemporary compositions. Tapestry has appeared throughout the United States and Canada, and you won't want to miss this chance to hear their performance here in Keene.

There are many other unique and wonderful performances, including *Playing for Peace*, a unique collaboration between Keene State and the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music on Thursday, April 3, 2008, and the KSC Chamber Orchestra, directed by Don Baldini on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Theatre. A complete listing of music events is printed below. As alumni of the department, you are always welcome here at the Redfern. Get together with other KSC grads and plan on attending an event today.

Alpha Yaya Diallo



Events

Date	Event	Time
10/3	Pilobolus Dance Company	7:30 p.m.
10/11	Faculty Artists Recital	7:30 p.m.
10/13	KSC Trumpet Day	All day
10/19	Guest Artist Recital – Thomas Gregg, tenor; George Loring, piano	7:30 p.m.
10/31	Guitar Orchestra and Saxophone Ensemble	7:30 p.m.
10/24	Alpha Yaya Diallo and The Bafing Riders	7:30 p.m.
11/3	Iceland Dance	7:30 p.m.
11/7	Faculty Recital	7:30 p.m.
11/9	Faculty Recital	7:30 p.m.
11/13	KSC Latin American Ensemble with The Alturas Duo	7:30 p.m.
11/14	The Baltimore Consort	7:30 p.m.
11/14-17	<i>Starting Here, Starting Now</i>	7:30 p.m.
11/28	Chamber Orchestra Don Baldini, director	7:30 p.m.
11/30	Concert Band Jim Chesebrough, director	7:30 p.m.
12/2	Chamber Singers and Concert Choir Elaine Ginsberg and Diane Cushing, directors	3 p.m.
12/5	Jazz Ensemble Don Baldini, director	7:30 p.m.
12/7	Chamber Ensembles	7:30 p.m.
2/6	The Eroica Trio	7:30 p.m.
2/15	Faculty Artists Recital	7:30 p.m.
2/20	Guest Artist Recital	7:30 p.m.
3/4	Faculty Composers Recital	7:30 p.m.
3/12	Tapestry Vocal Ensemble	7:30 p.m.
3/13	KSC Concert Band Jim Chesebrough, director	7:30 p.m.
4/1	KSC Percussion Ensemble Chris Swist, director	7:30 p.m.
4/3	<i>Playing for Peace</i>	7:30 p.m.
4/9	KSC Guitar Orchestra José Lezcano, director	7:30 p.m.
4/15	Faculty Recital	7:30 p.m.
4/16-19	An Evening of Dance	7:30 p.m.
4/23	KSC Chamber Orchestra Don Baldini, director	7:30 p.m.
4/24	KSC Concert Band Jim Chesebrough, director	7:30 p.m.
4/25	Chamber Singers and Concert Choir Elaine Ginsberg and Diane Cushing, directors	7:30 p.m.
4/27	KSC Chamber Ensembles	3 p.m.
4/30	Jazz Ensemble Don Baldini, director	7:30 p.m.
5/3	Kaddish World Premiere	8 p.m.

Keene State College Music Faculty News

Our faculty members are a busy lot. Here are some their recent adventures and activities.

DON BALDINI (artist in residence) once again was an integral member of Opera North, which has been acclaimed as one of the best summer opera festivals in the world. He performed in the orchestra for the season's two productions, Giuseppe Verdi's *Falstaff* and Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot*. He was also the personnel manager for the orchestra. He shared conducting duties with Bill Pardus in the first-ever Keene State College Jazz Band Reunion held in June at the KSC Campus Center. This coming year he will conduct his 30th Jazz Ensemble concert at Keene State College.

JIM CHESEBROUGH (Music faculty) attended the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference in Killarney, Ireland. This prestigious event was held from July 8 through July 14. During the weeklong conference, there were 13 major concerts with bands from Belgium, Ireland, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Research and repertoire sessions were offered as well as pre-concert talks and master classes. These sessions promoted a fruitful exchange of ideas among composers, conductors, performers, publishers, and educators. Some of the familiar names taking part in these workshops were Dame Evelyn Glennie, an exceptional percussionist; Gerhard Markson, conductor of the Irish National Symphony Orchestra; and Timothy Reynish, world-renowned authority on music for winds.

JOSEPH DARBY (department chair) recently completed a sabbatical appointment in which he conducted research on several music history projects. He spent two months at the Horatio Colony House Museum in Keene identifying the music and musicians on 70 rare wax cylinder recordings from the 1890s and 1900s. The Colony Collection of Recorded Sound has a fully operating graphophone wax-cylinder player from the early years of commercial recording and a collection of original wax cylinders with performances of concert band music, orchestral overtures, comedy routines, instrumental solos, Tin Pan Alley songs, and vocal quartets. He also spent two months in London conducting research at a number of leading libraries. One project involved collecting the names of subscribers to 18th-century concertos. Subscription lists offer a valuable record of business transactions between composers, publishers, printers, and audiences. This information is being entered into a database that will allow scholars to track changes in audience taste, the music trade, and the demographics of music literacy in 18th-century Britain. Another project involved collecting subscription lists of music published by G. F. Handel during the period from 1723 to 1740. A third project involved Handel's concert seasons of 1739-40 and 1740-41, with an eye toward figuring out which pieces of music were performed on the concerts (presently, little evidence exists about concert repertory during the 18th century). This project is nearly complete and has the potential to change historians' perception of concerts, their audiences, and the reception of instrumental music during Handel's time.

MAURA GLENNON (Music faculty) is on leave this semester. She announced the arrival of her new daughter, Eleanor "Ellie" Ann Kimball on Aug 2, 2007, almost 8 pounds, 20 inches. Maura, Justin, Zeke, and Ellie are all doing well at home.

BARBARA HAMEL (KSC staff) is the new administrative assistant to the Music Department, providing support to the faculty, currently enrolled students, and potential students. She has lived in the Keene area for 30 years. This summer she prepared the department for the return and arrival of students and faculty. She also traveled across Ireland.

CARROLL LEHMAN (Music faculty) spent the summer preparing for concerts and conducting the Monadnock Chorus and the Monadnock Chorus Chamber Singers, located in Peterborough, N.H. For the winter concert they will be performing a program called "An African American Christmas," and the summer was a time for selecting music and trying to engage an African American clinician to come and help with interpretation and style. The Chamber Singers, a more select group from the larger ensemble, performed several concerts over the summer. One was at a small auditorium in the Rivermead Retirement Home and two others were outdoor concerts in Jaffrey. Three performances were presented on a very hot day at the Sunapee League of Arts and Crafts Fair. In the past, Dr. Lehman conducted the New Hampshire Friendship Chorus on three trips abroad: Russia, Latvia, Estonia; South Africa; and China. In June, he was joined by the two other conductors that have led this group over the past 20 years. Together they conducted an alumni concert of music in Plymouth, N.H.

JOSÉ LEZCANO (Music faculty) won the 2007 Commissioned Composer of the Year from New Hampshire Music Educator's Association. He will compose a new work to be premiered at the convention in October in Vermont. His busy summer included performances of work for flute and guitar with flutist Sergio Pallottelli at the 2007 International Flute Festival in Quito, Ecuador. While there, he taught three master classes at the National Conservatory of Music for guitar students. On May 18, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Loja performed the South American premiere of his *Tango-Overture* for Orchestra. He performed with the Orquesta del Municipio de Loja (Loja Municipal Orchestra) in a concert on June 22, sponsored by the Alliance Francaise, for the Fete de la Musique in a city of 200,000 people near the Peruvian border in Southern Ecuador. The work was *Poemas Concertantes*, a piece he composed for flute, guitar, and chamber orchestra in 1998. The mayor of Loja attended this concert and read a proclamation from the city recognizing Dr. Lezcano's work as a guitarist and composer and thanking him for his contributions to the cultural climate of Loja. The busy summer also included four master classes for guitar students at the Salvador Bustamente Celi Conservatory of Music in Loja.

GEORGE LORING (artist in residence) organized and directed the annual national piano festival of the American Matthay Association for Piano held at King College in Bristol, Tenn. Loring is currently president of the association and this was his first time creating and coordinating the festival events. Featuring leading pianists from American colleges and universities in workshops and recitals, the festival also included the Clara Wells Scholarship competition. Loring also toured Switzerland as

pianist for the Keene Singers under the direction of conductor Jean Nelson. The 10-day tour included performances in Geneva, Interlaken, and Lucerne, along with a lot of wonderful views of the Swiss Alps, castles, churches, and lakes. Loring also attended concerts at the Marlboro Music Festival and Tanglewood. He spent time teaching piano lessons and practicing and rehearsing for an October concert with Thomas Gregg, a tenor from the Boston area.

BILL PARDUS (Music faculty emeritus) is not relaxing in his retirement. He recently composed *Three Moods* for Trumpet and Trombone with Piano for the International Trumpet Guild's Annual Composition contest. He also received the KSC Alumni Outstanding Service Award, presented on reunion weekend June 1 to 3, 2007.

CRAIG SYLVERN (Music faculty) traveled to Jerusalem and the Dead Sea over the summer, where he took in many of the cultural offerings in both those areas of the country. He is also completing a new composition for saxophone quartet based on folk music from the Yiddish, Ladino, and Israeli cultures.

SCOTT WHITE (KSC staff accompanist) performed in two activities this summer. He accompanied the Nashua (N.H.) Choral Society program *Summer Sings*. In early September, he was the music director for the Methuen (Mass.) Young People's Theater, leading the company in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*.



Bill Pardus receives the Alumni Outstanding Service Award from KSC President Helen Giles-Gee.

Keene State Hosts Trumpet Day

The Music Department hosted Trumpet Day on Saturday, October 13, 2007. This free workshop for trumpet players and musicians of all ability levels featured guest artist/clinician Dennis Noday and was hosted by KSC trumpet professor Jim Boccia and band director Jim Chesebrough.

The day began with a clinic focusing on sound production, the upper range, and mouthpieces. Dennis worked with players from middle school through college, coaching, charming, and challenging each player to perform beyond their current ability level.

In the afternoon Dennis led the players in a number of pieces for trumpet quartet. Sight-reading chops were put to the test. KSC trumpeter Carl Johnson commented, "Overall I think it was a great learning experience. ... I learned quite a bit from Dennis, and it was fun playing with him."

This is one of a number of outreach sessions planned by the Music Department. For information on upcoming events, contact Jim Chesebrough at jchesebrough@keene.edu.