

**H**ello – and welcome to the third edition of KSC Music News! Before we serenade you with the latest news of the Music Department, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professors Jim Chesebrough and Craig Sylvern for their work in putting together the News, our friends in KSC College and Media Relations for lending their expertise to all of our newsletters, brochures, and publicity materials, and to the KSC Advancement Division for their support in covering the cost of printing and mailing the News.

The year 2009 is an exciting one for Keene State College – we're celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the founding of Keene Normal School, which evolved into the comprehensive public liberal arts institution we know and love as Keene State College. Happy birthday, Keene State! The KSC Centennial Celebration committee, led by Professor Emerita Eleanor van der Hagen, has many wonderful activities in store for the Keene State community. In fact, the celebration is so grand that it started in 2008 and will continue into 2010. Visit the official Celebration website at <http://www.keene.edu/ksc100/> for a complete listing of Centennial news and events. The Music Department is an active partner in the Centennial Celebration, lending its talents and energy to performances, including "Inspired by Kaddish" (November 1, 2008), "An Evening of John Philip Sousa" (April 7, 2009) featuring the world-renowned Sousa expert Keith Brion and the KSC Concert Band, and an extra special gathering of music alums that will take place during Reunion Weekend (June 6, 2009). A formal invitation to the Reunion celebration will be coming to your mailboxes and e-mail inboxes soon!

The Music Department was a busy, exciting, and inspiring place to be in Fall 2008. We were picked to kick off the Centennial Celebration with a special performance of "Inspired by Kaddish" with our friends in the Theatre and Dance Department, featuring the music of Larry Siegel. There was another kick-off event to celebrate – the inauguration of our new Music Technology Instruction Laboratory – which brought Professor Peter Webster (Northwestern University) for a series of guest lectures and workshops. The Music Department hosted a number of special lectures, workshops, and performances this Fall by distinguished guests including music theorist Gary Karpinsky, rare and multiple flute specialist Paige Long, Colombian soprano Patricia Caicedo, the Latin music ensemble Zabap led by our Pro-

fessor Julian Gerstin, Brazilian duo Toninho and Maria-Jose Carrasquiera, percussionist Benjamin Toth, trumpeter Reese Land, and the Scott Mullett Quartet. Also, our brand new music practice facility is here, featuring state-of-the-art Virtual Acoustic Environment technology. Come see and hear it for yourselves – it's "wicked cool" (to quote our students).

Our student ensembles in Fall 2008 successfully completed a series of fabulous concerts, including the Concert Band's musical journey around the world, an innovative joint concert of the Guitar Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble, Chamber Singers' exploration of choral music from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, Concert Choir's celebration of choral favorites (a beautiful send-off to their December 2008 performances at Disney World), the Jazz Ensemble's salute to jazz royalty (Ellington, Basie, and Goodman), Chamber Orchestra's concert of symphonic classics, and an inspiring Chamber Music Ensembles recital (complete with a post-concert reception, hosted by the Department). Congratulations to all!

I wish to offer a few words about our Faculty and Guest Artists Recital Series in Fall 2008, and a special note thanks to Professor José Lezcano for hosting two wonderful events of international artists: soprano Patricia Caicedo, from Colombia, who performed a recital with Professors Lezcano and George Loring; and the Brazilian flute-piano ensemble Muito Obrigado, consisting of the brother-sister duo Toninho and Maria-Jose Carrasquiera, who performed with Professors Lezcano, Marcia Lehninger, and Christopher Swist. In addition, our audiences were thrilled with outstanding performances of the KSC Faculty Jazz Concert, with the Scott Mullett Quartet, and the experimental Latin music ensemble Zabap led by Julian Gerstin. Finally, "A Stravinsky Retrospective" featured a number of faculty groups, capped off with an excellent performance of A Soldier's Tale, with KSC Theatre Professor Vaughn West as narrator. All of the faculty events were well attended and very well received. With the Music Department's renewed commitment to publicizing its events via newspaper advertisements and radio spots, our community knows, now more than ever, that the Keene State College Music Department is the premier performing arts organization in the Monadnock Region.

Best wishes to all,  
Joseph Darby  
Chairperson Music Department



*Music majors (l to r) Lori Kjellander '10, Mark Perry '10 (seated), Megan Fleagle '11, and Vivianne Belanger '09 enjoy one of the new music practice modules at the Redfern. Photo by Robin Dutcher.*

## New Practice Modules Installed in Redfern

Six new practice modules have been installed in the Redfern Arts Center as part of a Replacement and Technology Upgrade Strategic Initiative approved last year. Five additional modules will be arriving to complete the upgrade.

Some of the new modules are equipped with a Virtual Acoustic Environment (VAE). This technology allows the creation of a variety of performance environments. These preset acoustical simulations switch to a different acoustical setting with just the push of a button. The VAE room is wonderfully responsive and is proven to accelerate the development of critical skills such as articulation, phrasing, intonation, and tone production. The facility also allows student to record their practice sessions and to interface with portable digital devices.

## Alumni Notes

**Tyler Reed '07** continues his graduate studies at Akron University. He is teaching, coaching, and playing more than ever. He recently performed with the university brass choir performing transcriptions of Bruckner's Sixth Symphony and will be joining the University Orchestra to play Holst's "Jupiter" from *The Planets*.



## KSC Music Department Announces 2008-09 Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Abigail Butler is the recipient of the Keene State College Department of Music's Distinguished Alumni Award for 2008-09. She is currently Associate Professor of Vocal Music Education at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Butler completed her undergraduate studies in voice performance at Keene State before receiving a master of music degree from Midwestern State University in Texas and a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Arizona.

Dr. Butler taught vocal and classroom music K-12 for 13 years in New Hampshire public schools. For two seasons she served as vocal director of the Stephenville Festival, a professional summer theater company in Newfoundland, Canada. She was also voice instructor for the Provincial Drama Academy in Newfoundland. Ms. Butler spent two summers as choral director and voice instructor for the Summer Youth Music School sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. While on sabbatical, she substituted as a music teacher for the Karmøy Musikskule and the Åkrehamn Ungdomsskule in Karmøy, Norway.

A member of Pi Kappa Lambda, Ms. Butler has been an active member of the Music Educators National Conference and the American Choral Directors Association. For several years she served as chairperson for the district JH Festivals sponsored by the New Hampshire Music Educators Association. She also served as a member of the executive board of the NHMEA and the All State Choral Committee. As a member of the NHMEA General Music Committee she worked to develop curriculum guidelines for the JH/middle school classroom. These guidelines were officially adopted by the NHMEA and were intended to assist music teachers in developing local curricula.

Ms. Butler has been guest conductor for state and regional JH music festivals in addition to serving as an adjudicator for the New Hampshire All State Chorus and the New England Music Festival Association. She has appeared as soprano soloist with the Keene Chorale, the Monadnock Chorus and various churches in New Hampshire and Texas.

A native of Keene, New Hampshire, Ms. Butler currently resides in Eastpointe, Michigan, with her husband. She is an avid fly-fisherman and can be found in her spare time along the trout streams of New England.

Dr. Butler will be a guest on the KSC campus at the end of the Spring '09 semester. She will be visiting the campus, presenting workshops for KSC music students, and be receiving her award on Saturday May 2, 2009 at the joint concert of the Monadnock Chorus and Keene State College choirs in the Redfern Arts Center Main Theater at 7:30 p.m.

For more information regarding the Distinguished Alumni Award or Dr. Butler's visit to the Keene State campus, contact the Music Department at 603-358-2177.

## John Philip Sousa Celebrates the Keene State Centennial



*Keith Brion as the "March King," John Philip Sousa. Coming to the Main Stage of the Redfern Arts Center, Keene State College on Tuesday April 7, 2009.*

In April of 1909 Keene Normal School, now Keene State College, was established, and according to the Historical Society of Cheshire County, the population of the city was around 10,000 people. This was a respectable size for a community in southwestern New Hampshire in the early twentieth century. Still, to keep down the dust, Keene's unpaved Central Square was sprinkled frequently with water, throughout the week and before church services on Sunday during the hot summer weather. In 1910, Central Square was paved, eliminating the need for street soaking. Keene soon became quite a busy place. A bystander on a Sunday in 1911 noted "208 teams, 188 bicycles, 88 automobiles, and 9 motorcycles in the city square."

This year, the celebration of the Keene State College Centennial will provide opportunities for our campus and the Keene community to study and remember an exciting and unique period of history. What was it like to walk our streets in the early years of the twentieth century? What entertained the people of the city at this time, besides the first talking pictures at the Dreamland Theater in 1913 or "Minnie" the elephant's traveling road show that same year?

Those who would like to experience an evening's entertainment from this era are in luck as the Keene State College Centennial Committee, the School of Arts and Humanities, and the Depart-

ment of Music present "An Evening of John Philip Sousa" on Tuesday April 7, 2009 in the Redfern Arts Center. This special performance will recreate a concert by one of the most famous and popular musical personalities of this time, John Philip Sousa, who, along with his famous band, visited Keene six times between 1897 and 1912.

Portraying this American phenomenon will be guest conductor Keith Brion. Mr. Brion is considered by many to be the single greatest authority on America's "March King." He will take the podium and lead the Keene State College Concert Band in a concert of classical, dance, and popular music as it would have been heard almost one hundred years ago.

Keith Brion is music director of his own New Sousa Band and has appeared as a frequent guest conductor with nearly all of America's major symphony orchestras and professional bands. He has been a frequent guest conductor of the Stockholm Symphonic Wind Orchestra, New York City's Goldman Band, the California Wind Orchestra, and the Allentown Band. He has also appeared with most of the major service bands, including the United States Marine Band, Army Field Band, Army Band, Coast Guard Band and the United States Army Band of Europe in Heidelberg, Germany. In addition, Mr. Brion maintains an active career as an orchestra conductor, presenting his popular Sousa revival concerts with almost all of America's symphony orchestras, including the Boston Pops, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the St. Louis, Dallas, Milwaukee symphonies. His overseas orchestral engagements have included the London Concert Orchestra and the Gothenburg Symphony.

Mr. Brion will be in residence at the college for a week prior to the concert. He will speak to classes on topics in music history, conducting, and the stagecraft involved in depicting the on-stage persona of America's first musical icon. He also will be engaged in hours of rehearsal with the Keene State College Concert band as they prepare a historically accurate recreation of a Sousa Band concert. Mr. Brion has stated that "Sousa's concerts were rarely all-Sousa. Rather they were a mixture of light classics, novelties, and brilliant instrumental and vocal solos, with Sousa marches played as rapid-fire encores." This means that there will be a variety of music for everyone.

For more information regarding this historic event, contact the Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond box office at 603-358-2168. Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.keene.edu/racbp](http://www.keene.edu/racbp).

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## Bill Pardus is NHMTA Commissioned Composer of the Year

William D. Pardus' composition *Rain in Summer* was premiered at the New Hampshire Music Teachers Association State Convention on Oct. 4, 2008, at the Manchester Community Music School. The work, based on a poem by Longfellow, was written for soprano, flute, oboe, bassoon and piano. Performing the work were

flautist David Flemming, pianist George Loring, soprano JoAnne Mead, bassoonist Joy Flemming, and oboist Sussan Henkel, all faculty or friends of the KSC Music Department.

Pardus is Professor Emeritus of Music and was chairman of the Music Department at Keene



From left to right: David Flemming, George Loring, JoAnne Mead, Bill Pardus, Joy Flemming and Sussan Henkel pictured at the Manchester Community Music School.

State College, where he taught Arranging, American Jazz, Jazz History, and was the director of the Keene State Electronic Music Studio as well as the director of the Keene State Jazz Ensemble. Bill is no stranger to KSC alums, but some may not know that prior to coming to Keene State College, he was Director of Instrumental Music at East Hartford High School, an adjunct faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State University and Principal Bassoonist/Assistant Conductor of the Manchester, Connecticut, Civic Orchestra. As a Fulbright Scholar, he taught at Norwich College of Education (England) in the 1960s and, during his sabbatical leave in the fall of 1994, was Visit-

ing Professor in Residence at the University of Keele in the United Kingdom.

Recently, in addition to performing as a jazz keyboardist, he has been involved with Music Technology, presenting workshops and seminars at State, Regional and National Conferences of Music Educators and at other colleges and universities. Along with his compositions for brass, woodwind, percussion, chamber groups, voice and band, he also has composed numerous scores for presentation by the KSC Dance Department. Pardus also was selected as the NHMTA Commissioned Composer of the Year in 2001 and 2004.

## KSC Grad, Jeremy Milligan, Releases New CD

Recently, musician and KSC alum Jeremy Milligan (right) performed with his quintet at the Hooker Dunham Theater In Brattleboro, Vermont. Since his graduation from Keene State in 2001, Jeremy has led an active life as a professional performer and composer/arranger.

Originally from Amherst, New Hampshire, Jeremy began playing guitar at the age of 13. In 1996 he began his studies in Classical Guitar Performance here at Keene State where he studied with current KSC faculty Jose Lezcano, Ted Mann, and Scott Mullet. In 2001 Jeremy graduated from KSC with honors and was awarded the 2001 Instrumentalist of the Year Award.

In the spring of 2001, Jeremy became the guitarist for the 'Enchantment of the Seas Orchestra' with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. During his time with the orchestra he performed nightly in a wide variety of genres including jazz, Broadway, Motown, country, rock and big band while performing with such legendary acts as Herb Reed and the Platters, and the Miracles.

In the spring of 2002, Jeremy moved to western Massachusetts, joining with Jon Wear, Phil Darosa, and bassist Jackson Smith to form the band Bathtub Mary, this time performing as drummer. The band toured extensively throughout the northeast and recorded the 2004 album, Change They Want to See.

After leaving Bathtub Mary, Jeremy spent time in Spain, where he studied Flamenco guitar at the La Janda school in Vejer de la Frontera. Upon returning to western Mass, Jeremy began performing regularly throughout the area with a wide variety of groups on both guitar and drums. He performed with area musicians and has also per-



formed regularly with Rene Romero, a Venezuelan Singer/Guitarist playing the traditional Venezuelan Bolero, as well as the music of Mexico and Columbia. In 2007 this duo was voted 'Best Latin Group' by the readers of the Valley Advocate. Jeremy has become a staple of Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley music scene and can be seen performing regularly as a classical soloist as well as performing Jazz, Latin, Rock, and acoustic Folk. In early 2007, Jeremy began composing for a unique instrumental ensemble. He hoped to combine all of his favorite aspects of the numerous styles of music he had been involved in. The music is closely related to Jazz, in that it is very improvisational and there are open solos for the instruments. The instrumentation for guitar, clarinet, accordion, bass and drums is similar to Tango, Bossa and other Latin styles along with classical music. The song forms are derived from Popular music, using the idea of Verse, Chorus and Bridge. The result is 'Still Moving' by the 'Jeremy Milligan Quintet', an album released in September of 2008. This fusion of Genres has created a style of music that is difficult to define and a welcome change to the status quo.

The above article and more information about Jeremy, his music, and his new CD may be found at his website, <http://www.myspace.com/jeremy milligan>.



Peter Finger

## 2009 Music Department Events

### Concert Band

James Chesebrough, director  
Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.

### Percussion Ensemble/Saxophone Ensemble

Christopher Swist & Craig Sylvern, directors  
Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

### Concert Band Centennial Celebration

Keith Brion, guest conductor  
Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.

### Guitar Orchestra/Latin American Ensemble

Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

### Faculty Artists Recital

Friday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

### Chamber Singers

Elaine Broad Ginsberg, director  
Sunday, April 19, 3:00 p.m.

### Chamber Ensembles

Sunday, April 26, 3:00 p.m.

### Jazz Ensemble

Don Baldini, director  
Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.

### Opera Workshop and Chamber Orchestra

Carroll Lehman and Don Baldini, directors  
Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

### Monadnock Chorus/Orchestra and Concert Choir

Carroll Lehman and Diane Cushing, directors  
Saturday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.

## Faculty News

Dr. Jim Chesebrough and the KSC Concert Band performed "Musical Postcards: A Journey in Sound," on Wednesday, November 5 at the Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond. Dr. Chesebrough also conducted the mass tuba choir at Keene's 18th annual Merry Tuba Christmas on December 7, conducted a faculty/guest artist ensemble in a performance of *The Soldier's Tale* by Igor Stravinsky on November 7, and co-hosted the second annual KSC Trumpet Day on November 8. He will be conducting the Connecticut Music Educators Association Southern Region Music Festival in Meriden, Connecticut, on January 16 and 17, 2009 as well as the Northwest Vermont District Music Festival Band on February 12- 13, 2009 in Jericho, Vermont. He has been invited to travel to the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus, Denmark, this June to perform with the Cramer Trombone Choir at the International Trombone Festival.

## Keene State College Trumpet Day 2008



*Trumpet Ensemble on stage.*

The second annual Keene State College Trumpet Day was held on November 8, 2008, in the Redfern Arts Center on the KSC campus. Over thirty students from two New Hampshire state universities and eleven public schools from across the state participated in this free workshop for trumpet players and musicians of all ability levels. The day featured guest artist and clinician Dr. Reese Land and was hosted by KSC trumpet Professor Jim Boccia and band director Jim Chesebrough.

Dr. Reese Land is from Taylorsville, North Carolina. He is a member of The Brass Company and received his Master's degree from the University of Louisville in 2002. He has served as trumpet instructor for the University of Louisville and Campbellsville University, and maintains a busy freelance schedule with many area ensembles such as the Evansville Philharmonic and the Louisville Bach Society. Dr. Land received his Doctorate degree in trumpet from the University of Illinois and has served as Visiting Trumpet Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi and was a member of the Southern Arts Brass Quintet. Having just completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Illinois, he is currently Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Campbellsville University.

The day began with a performance by the Keene State Brass Ensemble led by Professor Boccia. Dr. Land joined in the performance and followed up with a session on warm-ups for everyone present. Seven students then performed in a master class for Dr. Land. Adrienne Pollner from Plymouth State University, Charlotte Freselli and Katie Fernald from Con-Val High School in Peterborough, Ariel Sherman from Merrimack High School, Sarah Sherman from Merrimack High School, Sarah Morgan from the James Mastercola Upper Elementary School, and KSC alumnus Nathan Shower all took center stage and performed for Dr. Land. He charmed and challenged each player, and, in a matter of minutes, helped each of them reach a high-

er level of performance. The players in the audience all benefited from these sessions as well, but as lunchtime approached, it was obvious that they wanted to play as well.

After lunch it was time for a massed trumpet ensemble. The players read and rehearsed seven tunes, ranging in styles from the more traditional *Danny Boy* and *Lo How A Rose Ere Blooming* to the more jazzy and popular *My Favorite Things* and George Gershwin's *Do It Again*.

"It was great to see so many trumpet players in one spot!" said KSC Professor Jim Boccia. "This may have been the largest all-trumpet gathering that New Hampshire has ever seen."

Dr. Chesebrough added, "I know that some of these people knew each other before they arrived, but in the final 30 minutes of the day, as I watched them sit on the edge of their seats asking Dr. Land to share his personal thoughts on trumpet practicing and playing, I knew he had succeeded in making all of them come together as a group of friends and colleagues."

This is one of a number of outreach sessions hosted by the Keene State Department of Music. For information on upcoming events, contact Jim Chesebrough, Keene State College Department of Music.



*Charlotte Freselli works with Dr. Land.*

## Percussion Clinic Presented by Guest Artist Ben Toth

Benjamin Toth, professor of percussion at The Hartt School of Music, gave an inspiring master class to KSC students on a system of studying and executing rhythm. This method is called "Ritmica" and was written by Brazilian music professor José Eduardo Gramani. Students and faculty alike participated in exploring the system through hand clapping and vocalizations with Professor Toth. Gramani developed the ideas of Ritmica after he encountered the intricate rhythm structure of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*.

KSC Percussion Professor, Christopher Swist, a graduate of the Hartt School, arranged the workshop.



*KSC students and Professors Swist and Toth pose for a photo following the "Ritmica" clinic.*



Julio Del Sesto '07

**This is the last print version  
of the Music Newsletter!**

## Keene State Hosts 18th Merry Tubachristmas

Keene State College hosted the 18th annual Keene Tubachristmas in December in the Mabel Brown Room of the KSC Student Center. Tubists from four New England states joined together, under the direction of KSC Professor Jim Chesebrough, to perform sounds of the season, arranged for tuba choir. An enthusiastic crowd of tuba fans and holiday celebrants came to enjoy the efforts of these fine musicians in an afternoon concert. The ensemble featured current KSC students and music department alumni. The youngest performer was thirteen, and the oldest was 83 years young. This is one of over 200 Tubachristmas performances held in cities throughout the United States and in several foreign countries.

Merry Tubachristmas was created by world famous tuba player Harvey Phillips and is celebrating its 35th Anniversary. Phillips was inspired to create Tubachristmas as an annual event honoring his teacher, the late tubist William J. Bell (born Christmas Day, 1902). Every Christmas season, tuba and euphonium players of all ages gather to pay respect to all the great artists/teachers who represent their heritage. These Tubachristmas



*The 18th Annual Tubachristmas ensemble in the Mabel Brown Room of the KSC Student Center.*

performances feature traditional Christmas carols especially arranged for the first Tubachristmas, (December 22, 1974 in NYC's Rockefeller Plaza) by American composer Alec Wilder. Tubachristmas concerts pay grateful tribute to composers who have embraced these noble instruments with solo and ensemble compositions. The warm, rich organ-like sound of the tuba-euphonium choir has won the ears and hearts of every audience.

**KSC**  
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1909 - 2009

*This will be the last issue in print!*

The Music Department Newsletter will be moving to an electronic-only format. If you would like to keep receiving *KSC Music News* please make sure we have your current e-mail address. Thank you!

## Alumni Contact Information

We would like to maintain an up-to-date Alumni Directory and keep in contact with our graduates.

Please use the following form to submit current contact information and professional activities to the Music Department:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Activities: Please list any awards, recent performances, positions, publications, etc.

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Please mail the completed form to:

**Keene State College**  
**Music Department**  
**229 Main Street**  
**Keene, NH 03435-2402**

or e-mail updated information to [music@keene.edu](mailto:music@keene.edu).

If you have been in contact with any KSC alums over the years, please send us their contact information (name, address, phone, e-mail). Thank you!



*This information will only be used by the Music Department and Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.*