

2014 MSU Phonathon

Alumni should contact the department head for the department of their degree:

Music (MUS):

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SCRIPTING INFORMATION

What this year's gifts will support, and why support/funding for those things is important:

Music

- Scholarships: The Music Department has awarded every scholarship it has to over 80 deserving students from the state, region, outside our region, and to students from China, Malaysia, and South America.
- Student Travel: This year we plan to support student travel to regional competitions and master classes such as regional National Association of Teachers of Singing Competitions, Music Teachers National Association piano and instrumental competitions, possibly the Eastern Trombone Workshop at Ft. Myer VA, and of course, student travel with choirs and bands. Students continue to need travel help to compete in regional and national competitions away from the MSU campus.
- Visiting Scholars and Clinicians: Funds and donations will be used to bring visiting teachers and clinicians to campus to work with students in specific studios.

Last year's Annual Fund gifts were used to...

Music

- Student Travel: Donor gifts helped support travel to competitions for MTNA competitors. Donor gifts also helped to support some choral student travel to England and Scotland with the Concert Chorale under the direction of Guy Webb.
- Masterclasses, Clinics, and Guest Artists: In 2013-14, we brought Chris Chesky, director of the Music Performance Health Institute at North Texas for the entire student body to emphasize musician's health issues. We also had: James Riggs, Saxophone, North Texas, singers from William Jewell and Webster Universities, trombonists from the Vienna Symphony and the UK, a flutist and clarinetist from major US universities, three trumpet colleagues of Dr. Grant Peters all from the International trumpet Guild, four guest pianists and many others. It is critical to provide our students with opportunities to work with artists outside our campus to reinforce our own stellar teaching done by our faculty and to provide them a look at potential graduate study.
- New York Showcase for Musical Theatre and Jazz Studies: Jazz Studies Ensemble I accompanied all Music Theatre seniors at their Showcase and Alumni Event in New York City this past March. Jazz Students had opportunities for masterclasses and lessons with living jazz icons.

Scholarships: How many scholarships were you able to award this year? What percent of your students rely on some kind of financial aid?

Music: Over 50 endowed scholarships, one award from the Presser Publishing Foundation, and numerous band grants for participation in the Pride Marching Band. Over 75% of our students receive some sort of financial aid.

Study abroad/Study away: How many students are able to study abroad currently? Are there new countries or locations that are now accessible for study abroad? How many more places were students able to travel to (if study abroad program exists already)? How was your study abroad program enhanced?

Music

- This year, 47 music majors in the Concert Chorale traveled in Scotland and England to perform.
- 3 singers were finalists in a National Competition in San Antonio, all graduate students
- Fifteen students went to London for two weeks with Dr. Muchnick
- The entire Chamber Orchestra, all string students will spent Fall Break in China at Qingdao University performing and meeting Chinese music students.
- We have 5 students in a Study Away trip to Greece.
- We have three faculty developing Study away to Vienna, France, and Columbia..

Students: What student resources were you able to expand/continue recently? How do these resources enhance a student's education?

Music: We supported student travel to a regional competition of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in Rockford IL. Over twenty students participated in this two day competition and nearly half placed or won their divisions against students from Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

Equipment: How many new pieces of equipment, technology or resources were purchased for classrooms and labs? What is the significance of these upgrades?

As equipment needs become more acute, university and state funding has to support more and more equipment needs and computer labs across the university. Funding is desperately needed to augment university support.

Music: The Music Department was able to replace five upright pianos for practice rooms and studios with student fee money in an effort to begin our "All Steinway School" campaign.

Community outreach/programs: Have you been able to begin any new initiatives with community outreach? How many people do you affect with your existing programs? What is the goal of these programs? What do you hope these programs can accomplish for the future?

Music

- Our MSU String Project serves over 60 elementary students every semester with group and private string instruction under the direction of Dr. David Hays. These low to no-

cost lessons are available in partnership with Roundtree Elementary School. Students present a recital every semester.

Attractions: Were you able to offer any guest speakers, visiting professors or exhibits to your students last year? How do those experiences impact your students?

Music

- We offered over a dozen guest artist recitals and masterclasses to various students in the past year. Some examples are: five voice masterclasses, guests in the clarinet, flute, trombone, trumpet, oboe, and percussion studios, guest jazz drummers, bassists, and saxophone performers, guest lecturers in music history, music appreciation, and world music classes.
- Our students benefit greatly from having guest experts here on campus. Often a mass lecture or lecture recital gives way to individual lessons or small group discussions. Our annual guest composer works with every composition students critiquing work and offering suggestions for improvements on individual compositions.

How can the School/College/Department benefit from gifts at the following levels? (For example: \$50 buys a journal subscription for the library, or four gifts of \$250 add up to a scholarship for a student. Please provide as many examples as possible.)

Music

- \$50---pays an entry fee for a competition; buys music or reeds
- \$100---helps offset travel expenses for a student to a competition
- \$250—four or more of these gifts can fund a meaningful scholarship for a student; helps a choir students raise funds for foreign travel
- \$1000: again, a scholarship that helps defray tuition costs; buys books for a year, helps with Study Away costs
- \$2500: pays a half year's tuition
- \$5000: covers a full year's tuition

2-3 themes/messages you would like included in your scripts (ideally these would be tied to the Annual Fund):

News from the last year:

Music

Dr. Guy Webb has retired as Director of Choral Activities after 34 hugely successful years leading this program. We welcome MSU Alum, Dr. Cameron LaBarr, as our new Director of Choral Activities. Dr. LaBarr holds the MM and DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of North Texas. He comes to us from Lee University in Tennessee. This summer, he is one of six fellows in the American Choral Directors Association selected to conduct in China. He and his wife, Composer Laureate of Missouri, Susan LaBarr, will welcome a son in June.

Points of pride/key talking points (also see above information):

Music

- This past year, the MSU Music Department has placed its undergraduates in at least five top regional and benchmark institutions for graduate study. Undergraduate composition major Tyler Durham was a national winner in a composition contest for his First Symphony.
- Graduates in Voice, Josh Markley and Traci Pritchard, both won majors roles in professional opera productions.
- The MSU Opera Workshop teamed with Theatre and Dance to produce Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.
- Music education graduates continue to find full-time employment upon graduation.
- Music Theatre majors have gotten successful summer placements in Montana, Ohio, Michigan, and New York, as well as with Springfield's Tent Theatre.

Major changes in the past 12 months i.e. prominent faculty or staff retired/departed, building renovations, programs eliminated, organizational changes:

Music

- Dr. Guy Webb has retired after a wonderful 34 years at MSU. A Touring Scholarship in his name has been established that will support students who want to travel with the choir.
- Mr. Marty Morrison is a new instructor in Jazz Set Drumming
- Ellis 226, "The Choral Pit" is slated for a complete make move and renovation and a new Steinway Grand Piano and will become Hamra Lecture Recital Hall
- Dr. Cameron LaBarr is our new Director of Choral Studies

Upcoming alumni events:

N/A