April Tours Build Excitement for May 50th Celebration

On the heels of the Orchestra, Band and Choir tour in March, several other Academy groups hit the road – and took to the air – in April. Dancers, organists, filmmakers and jazz musicians continued the effort to reconnect with alumni and perform for new audiences across the country.

“This has been an amazing spring for the Interlochen community,” said Jeffrey Kimpton, president of Interlochen Center for the Arts. “Through the tours, we have reconnected with alumni and reached out to new audiences around the country, sharing the energy and creative vitality of the Arts Academy as we celebrate the milestone of the school’s 50th anniversary.”

Organ Tour: April 18-23

Musicians from the Academy organ studio traveled to perform at the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles, where the students had the rare opportunity to play on the world’s...
largest church pipe organ. The event was arranged with the assistance of the church’s resident organist, Interlochen alumnus Stewart Foster.

“The students played beautifully,” said Thomas Bara, instructor of organ at Interlochen Arts Academy. “Because they are so accustomed to playing in relatively small spaces, it was very gratifying for them to play in a bigger space: a live room with lots of acoustics. It was a great learning opportunity.”

While in Los Angeles, the group made the most of their time by attending a performance of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in the Walt Disney Concert Hall. After the concert, when the audience had left the hall, the Academy’s organists had more than one hour to play on the organ in the Frank Gehry designed concert hall.

Dance Tour: April 19-22

Academy dancers took an ambitious program, featuring Martha Graham’s 1935 masterwork, “Panorama,” to Midland, Michigan and Skokie, Illinois. After a Thursday performance at the Midland Center for the Arts, the students travelled by bus to Chicago for a master class with Johnny McMillan.

A 2010 Academy alumnus, McMillan recently landed a coveted position in the first company of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. He led students through a wide variety of exploratory exercises designed to test the limits of students’ range of motion, encouraging dancers to use movement to tell a story.

Cameron Basden, the director of the dance program at Interlochen Center for the Arts, noted that touring teaches students skills they can’t get in the familiar surroundings of the dance building. “Performing in front of new audiences, adapting to different venues, warming up in various places and changing the daily routine is an experience that can only be had by actually touring,” said Basden. “Dancers bond, get their ‘stage legs,’ grow in their roles as technicians and mature as artists. By dealing with the various elements presented and having new eyes watching for each show, the dancers find a consistency in performance that takes them to a new and higher level.”

Motion Picture Arts (MPA) Tour: April 24-29

MPA students travelled alongside Academy jazz musicians to Santa Monica and San Francisco, California. For Academy filmmakers, the tour was not just a chance to screen their work for new audiences; the trip was also a pilgrimage to the home of the film industry. In a period of a few days, Interlochen students visited three of the major studios and spent personal time with film industry veterans.

On their first full day in Los Angeles, students visited Warner Bros., meeting with Academy alumnus Hudson Miller who gave students an inside look at sound design for feature films. He also took students on a tour that included the back lot and post-production facilities of one of the country’s most historic movie studios. In San Francisco, the students visited the headquarters of Lucas Films / Industrial Light and Magic (ILM), the companies founded by George Lucas, the creator of iconic movies including "Star Wars," "Indiana Jones" and countless others. While there, they were given a tour by Jeff Wozniak, a senior digital effects artist and past guest at Interlochen’s Future of Cinema Film Festival. Lastly, the group visited Pixar, the animation studio that produced films including “Up,” “Toy Story,” and “Monsters, Inc.” among many others. While there, they were given a tour by Pixar technical director and
Among many others. While there, they were given a tour by Pixar technical director and Academy alumnus, Brian Rosen.

“These were not pat tours on trams,” said Michael Mittelstaedt, director of the MPA program. “At each of the locations, Interlochen students met with successful established artists who were down to earth and willing to spend time to answer questions about their feature film credits. It was a rare opportunity to walk through their facilities and to be introduced to the creative teams at each studio.”

While MPA students started the tour with a solid understanding of the filmmaking process, the tour gave students an inside look and complete immersion into the world of film that few ever have the opportunity to experience. The halls and walls of Pixar and ILM were covered with images from pencil, to maquettes (or scale model sculptures) and displays with digital renderings of their films. ILM had background matte paintings from their history of films and life-sized models of Darth Vader and Boba Fett.

**Jazz Tour: April 24-29**

Traveling alongside the motion picture arts students, the Academy jazz musicians also traveled west for performances in Santa Monica (near Los Angeles) and San Francisco. For Jazz musicians, the process of touring is almost as important as the performances.

“Travelling is hard work, but it's what I do as a professional musician,” said Academy alumnus Bob Mintzer, one of the tour's guest artists. “In fact, that's where the real work happens. The music is what I get to do after I am done traveling.” Bill Sears, the director of the Academy jazz program, also felt that the challenges of touring are important for aspiring musicians to experience. “When you are on tour, you do not always have the time or place to properly warm-up, eat and rest, and yet the show must go on,” said Sears. Despite the travel schedule and unfamiliar surroundings, the Academy jazz band rose to the occasion with outstanding performances.

At both their West Coast performances, the jazz band was joined by Interlochen alumni who are well known in the jazz community. In Santa Monica, drummer Peter Erskine (IAA 68-71) and saxophonist Bob Mintzer (IAA 69-70) performed on several pieces. In San Francisco, students performed alongside Matthew Brewer (IAC 93-00, IAA 98-01) on bass and Dmitri Matheny (IAA 83-84) on flugelhorn. “The opportunity for our students to perform with world-class musicians such as Peter Erskine, Bob Mintzer, Matthew Brewer and Dmitri Matheny gave them an up-close look at the level these guys play,” said Sears. “They also witness the professionalism of our guests, as they were able to run through a tune one time and then perform magnificently on the concert. It really showed the students how important preparation is to achieving success as a musician.”

After several days of travel and performance, the jazz tour concluded at the home of one of the students, whose parents planned an evening of fun and relaxation. The family set up a performance tent for the jazz combo, complete with stage, lights and a sound system, and more than 100 guests came to see the outdoor performance on a beautiful California spring evening. Once the performance was complete, the musicians, faculty and chaperones enjoyed dinner provided by the student’s family.

*The 50th Anniversary tours will resume and conclude next fall with theatre and visual arts students traveling to New York City.*
Looking Forward: Academics at Interlochen Arts Academy

Unpublished
May 1, 2012

Over the next year, arts directors from Interlochen will share their vision for the future of their discipline. This is the third of the series and will focus on the future of academics at the Arts Academy. Edward Farraday has been the Vice President of Education Programs at Interlochen Center for the Arts since June 2008. Prior to coming to Interlochen, Mr. Farraday spent ten years as director of the Upper School at Miami Country Day School. Previously, he served as academic dean at the Walnut Hill School in Massachusetts and as director of academic affairs at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans.
For the past fifty years, Interlochen Arts Academy has provided a strong academic program complementing the highly specialized and rigorous artistic training offered to students from all over the world. The academic offerings in the humanities, math and science are designed to provide students with the background necessary to apply to the best colleges and universities in the United States. A core of college preparatory courses expands at the upper levels where specialized elective courses in English, history and science as well as advanced courses in foreign language and math are available. While traditional in the general nature of its offerings, the academic program remains extremely flexible in order to meet the needs of the wide variety of backgrounds of students who enter the Academy. New Academy students enter at every grade level and come from very different schools as well as home schooling settings. The diverse experiences and backgrounds of Academy students are a strength of the school but create the necessity for the academic offerings to respond to a wide variety of needs while preparing students in a relatively short period of time.

As in other schools across the country and the world, technological resources are starting to play an increasingly important role in expanding the tools available to teachers and students. Starting this fall, Interlochen Arts Academy will have a 1:1 laptop program in which all students will be required to have their own laptop with them for daily use in their classes. Students have been using computers for years now as a means of obtaining information and producing work. This laptop program means that both students and teachers will have the incredible resources offered by technology available in every class each day. Opportunities for individualized learning, for new methods of assessment and for developing the skills of technological literacy will be increased. The combination of the new technological infrastructure at Interlochen combined with the laptop program provides opportunities students never had before to broaden, strengthen and deepen their academic experience. Teachers in all disciplines across the country are looking at new ways to organize their classes and communicate with students as a result of technological advances. Moving resources, curriculum, and even assessments onto a digital platform (ASPen) also allows our students to access material and keep up with their studies when they are off campus. This is something that Interlochen Arts Academy must do not only to stay relevant in the world of education but also to fulfill its responsibility as an educational institution preparing students who are technologically literate.

Another important part of both the academic and artistic educational program at the Arts Academy is interdisciplinary work and collaboration between and among teachers. While those efforts have always been present in the program, we will now have an Intermester Program during the two weeks between first and second semester when faculty will have the opportunity to offer a wide variety of short courses on topics and areas that are not otherwise present in the curriculum. This program encourages teachers to work together to develop new courses, to cross disciplines and to create new opportunities for learning for students. Not only is this an excellent opportunity for teachers to work together, but it encourages the creation of courses where students can see how subjects they have experienced separately come together. One of the most important and often overlooked goals of a good education is to help
students see how areas of study are related. The world is a place of connections and relations rather than just a series of academic or arts silos, each existing in a world unrelated to the other.

In our continuing efforts to offer increased educational opportunities that will expose students to the world at large as part of their educational background, we have initiated two international exchange programs. This year a group of students from the Arts Academy spent ten days at the School of the Arts Singapore as the first step toward building an ongoing exchange program with that school. At the same time, a group of students from the Shanghai Conservatory Middle School (equivalent of our high school level) came to Interlochen to interact and learn with our students. Both of these programs will continue in the coming years with groups of students, as well as faculty, going back and forth to share learning, teaching and culture. There are already plans to expand the offerings of exchange programs with a school in India and one in Australia. These opportunities provide a balance to the geographically isolated nature of the program. It is important that we offer great learning experiences both within and without our campus in a world that is becoming increasingly connected and increasingly dependent on the ability of people to understand each other and work together.

It is the goal of the academic program at the Arts Academy to provide the fundamental academic skills and content that will prepare every graduate to go on to higher learning in the institution of his or her choice. The program must remain flexible in order to meet the needs of individual students as well as the changes in content that are the result of our ever changing and expanding world. While the relationships formed between teacher and student remain key to successful educational experiences, the role of the teacher is changing as the old boundaries of time and place for learning disintegrate, and the availability of information explodes. In order to remain viable and to provide students with the best education possible, the academic program, as well as the arts programs, must respond to these changes. Innovation and collaboration will be key to the future success of our program. The addition of technological tools, exchange programs, interdisciplinary courses, and flexible academic offerings are just a few of the key steps toward ensuring that we remain a leader in education.

See More: Features [2], May 2012 [3]

Source URL: http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/looking-forward-academics-interlochen-arts-academy

Links:
For Academy alumna Diane Wilshere (IAA 77-79) of Manassas, Virginia, it was her father who instilled in her the importance of giving back. “He felt horrible that he couldn’t afford to pay my full tuition,” Diane explains, “so he vowed he would pay back my scholarship double.” Although he was never able to do that himself, Diane picked up on that commitment twenty years ago and has been supporting Interlochen ever since. She started small, writing checks for $10 or $25, recognizing that the act of giving was as important as the actual amount. Over the years, she has been able to fulfill her father’s promise and more.

“I still look at Interlochen as the most amazing two years of education in my life,” Diane says of her time at the Academy as a theatre and creative writing major. “You were immersed in art, and not just your own. We were all artists.” An actor, director and writer with the Maryland Renaissance Festival’s professional acting company for the past 18 years, Diane says, “there are things I learned at Interlochen that I still use in my arts career today.” And that’s why she continues to support Interlochen – to ensure that future generations of artists have the same opportunities she did.
Diane, along with several former students and parents, have pledged to match new or increased gifts from alumni, current and former parents, and grandparents through the Interlochen Arts Academy 50th Anniversary Alumni-Parent Challenge. To support the challenge, please give online at www.interlochen.org/IAAchallenge [1].

See More: Features [3], May 2012 [4], Alumni Challenge [5]

Source URL: http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/academy-alumna-gives-back

Links:
MAY 9, 1918 - APRIL 7, 2012  Myron Leon Wallace entered The University of Michigan in 1935 and worked with Jerry Weisner and Joe Maddy as announcer for Maddy’s radio programs “Music Makers” and “Join the Choir.” He graduated in 1939 and asked Dr. Maddy if there was any job he could do at Camp that summer. Maddy thought that the new Radio Workshop program could use some help, and sure enough Myron soon found himself writing scripts and playing the roles of John Philip Sousa and Victor Herbert in radio plays based on the lives of American composers. When a job opened at station WOOD in Grand Rapids, Myron left in mid-July to accept his first real job as news announcer at a salary of twenty dollars a week. His career grew steadily and in 1955 he began a late-night interview show, “Night-Beat” on the old Dumont television network. His first guests were Norman Mailer, Salvatore Dali, Hugh Hefner, Thurgood Marshall and William F. Buckley, and Myron quickly gained notice as a hard-hitting interviewer. In 2003, “Mike” Wallace served Interlochen as chairman of our 75th anniversary celebration and retired a few years later after 37 years with “60 Minutes.”

Now you know most of the story, but here’s the coda: Mike beat out more than 20 applicants for that first job, and, though he was here for only a fraction of a single summer, our faculty, Jerry, Joe, and radio music director Rudolf Schramm helped him to prepare the 30-minute recording of news, music, sports, Q&A, and ad-libbing on a dozen subjects that won him the job interview. So, here’s a moral for our Academy seniors: stay friendly and be cordial to the
teachers from whom you’ve drawn the help to move on to your next station in life!

(Unpublished) From the Archives with Byron Hanson: May 2012 [1]

See More: Features [3], May 2012 [4], From the Archives [5], Outreach [6]

Source URL: http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/archives-byron-hanson-may-2012

Links:
Registration Now Available for Interlochen's 2012 Symposium

Unpublished
May 1, 2012

Information, Space and Time: The Arts, Creativity and Learning in the 21st Century will take place October 10-13 at Interlochen Center for the Arts. The conference is designed to explore the changes in the world of the arts and look toward the future.

Registration is now open! [1]

Featured guests, speakers and presenters will include Tony Kushner, Liz Lerman, Billy Childs, Andrea Gibson, Sheryl Connelly, Carolyn Forche, Doug Stanton and many more. Together, attendees, speakers and presenters will explore a range of perspectives on the future of the arts including: Teaching and Learning In the Arts; Arts and the Environment; Leadership in the Arts; The Future of the Ensemble; The Future of the Book; and more. Peer-to-peer discussion groups will stimulate unscripted dialogue, while workshops and creative sessions will provide roll-up-your-sleeves, immersive forums and roundtables. And all of this will be topped off with live performances throughout the conference.
The symposium is designed for everyone who is interested in the future of the arts, including educators, students, performers, advocates and others. We hope you will join us!


Source URL: http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/registration-now-available-interlochens-2012-symposium

Links:
Kevin Puts has won the Pulitzer Prize for music with “Silent Night,” his first opera. The work received its world premiere in November 2011 at the Minnesota Opera in St. Paul.

Pulitzer officials described “Silent Night” as "a stirring opera that recounts the true story of a spontaneous cease-fire among Scottish, French and German soldiers during World War I, displaying versatility of style and cutting straight to the heart." Puts was commissioned by the Minnesota Opera to write the piece, basing it on the Oscar-nominated 2005 French film “Joyeux Nöel,” which dramatized the actual World War I Christmas truce.

Puts attended Camp from 1985 through 1987. He was a piano student of Nelita True, who taught at Camp for many summers and is the head of the piano department at Eastman School of Music. Puts studied at the American Academy in Rome where Howard Hanson, Interlochen's first Pulitzer Prize winner, was director for 40 years.
Calling all Interlochen Arts Academy Alumni!

It's 50th Anniversary Reunion month! Pack your bags and get ready for the "reunion of all reunions," May 23-27 at Interlochen Arts Academy! The Academy celebrates 50 years of excellence in arts education and salutes all those that have experienced this unique school. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of this exciting milestone event. If you have not yet registered, there's still time!

Registration for the 50th Anniversary Reunion continues and already nearly 500 alumni and guests have registered. The "buzz" for the reunion via social media is strong and the number of registrants will undoubtedly increase over the next few weeks. Join the masses and register today! Entice fellow alumni to join you and make this reunion special for all. You won't be disappointed.
Come back and experience the Interlochen of today with those you knew from the Interlochen of yesteryear. Visit our 50th page [1] for all information on the 50th -- travel and lodging, reunion schedule, a list of attendees and so much more! Don't miss out! From student and alumni performances to evening dinners and receptions, there are many opportunities to engage with alumni, faculty, staff and friends throughout the weekend.

Just dropping in for a day or afternoon? You are more than welcome to attend any of the student and alumni performances and roam campus at no cost. Registration fees cover the cost of meals, reunion swag, snacks, beverages, etc. If you do come to campus for a brief visit, be sure to stop in at the Reunion Welcome Center at Apollo Hall to say "hello" and pick up your visitor name tag.

Questions on all things 50th should be directed to the Office of Alumni Engagement at Alumni@interlochen.org [2] or via phone at 231-276-7630 [3].

See you at the end of the month!

Gary Gatzke (IAA 96-98)
Director, Alumni Engagement


Source URL: http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/academy-50th-all-alumni-reunion-dont-miss-it

Links:
[2] mailto:Alumni@interlochen.org
Interlochen Sound Check Winner Announced

Unpublished
May 1, 2012

77 entries. 24,000 votes. One winner. Interlochen Center for the Arts is pleased to announce that Camille Walker of Oregon is the winner of the 2012 Interlochen Sound Check scholarship competition.

The competition was a video contest hosted on Interlochen’s Facebook Page. Open to U.S. students accepted to a summer 2012 Interlochen Arts Camp high school music program, the prize was a full scholarship to Camp, including travel and uniform costs. The Sound Check scholarship was made possible through the support of the president’s corporate council at Interlochen.

Submissions for the contest were due April 1, with a public voting period on Facebook April 2 – 13, 2012.

Ms. Walker wrote and starred in her winning video submission, a black and white silent movie
with damsel in distress – complete with a pointy pink princess hat. The plot was simple: Walker played the princess whose dog is stolen by a villain. During her quest to recover her dog, a prince-like hero joins her. Starring with her in the movie were her father (the evil villain), Mac, her family’s 10-year old West Highland white terrier, and a friend and fellow classmate.

But it was the music that truly stood out. Using a green screen, Ms. Walker appeared in the video playing the music for the old-time silent movie on her oboe. In the end, she received more than 2,900 votes.

“I feel so supported by friends, family and complete strangers who valued my musical education enough to take the time to vote,” said Ms. Walker. “I feel overcome with relief and euphoria. I almost went to a shorter summer program because of the cost to my family, but we took a leap of faith and it feels amazing.”

Ms. Walker started playing the oboe in sixth grade and is a member of the Crescent Valley High School band and concert choir, as well as the Corvallis Youth Symphony. She plans to attend Brigham Young University to study music education with hopes of becoming a music teacher. But first she will attend the high school wind ensemble summer program at Interlochen Arts Camp.

“I am looking forward to immersing myself in musical study for six whole weeks and am especially excited to learn from my peers and from some of the best instructors and directors in the world,” said Ms. Walker. “Everyone at Interlochen will be dedicated and excited about music making, and when you put all those people together, great things are bound to come of it.”

See More: May 2012 [2], News [3], Interlochen Sound Check [4]

Source URL: http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/interlochen-sound-check-winner-announced

Links:
The Interlochen Arts Academy production of “West Side Story” on May 11 and 12 will showcase the collaborative efforts of the theatre, music, dance, and design and production departments.

“‘West Side Story’ was chosen to be a centerpiece of the Academy’s 50th anniversary due to its standing as a classic piece of American musical theatre,” said William Church, director of the theatre program at Interlochen Center for the Arts. “Although the story is firmly rooted in a specific time and place, the themes of young love and racial prejudice are timeless and still carry great weight and relevance. Our community of young artists will be able to tap into those emotions and bring the characters to vivid life.”

With the gripping love story of Tony and Maria, creators Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Laurents and Jerome Robbins heralded a new era of musical theatre. “West Side Story” premiered in 1957 at Broadway’s Winter Garden Theater and then began its
triumphal procession around the globe. Since its dazzling debut, “West Side Story” has taken its place as one of the greatest musicals in the canon of American theatre.

Caught between the warring Jets and Sharks street gangs, two idealistic young lovers struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence and prejudice. Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” is transported to 1950s New York City with classic songs like “I Feel Pretty,” “I Want to be in America,” and “Maria.” With multiple awards for both the stage and screen versions, “West Side Story” is hailed as one of the most innovative, heart-wrenching and relevant musical dramas of our time.

“West Side Story”
Interlochen Arts Academy Musical Theatre Company
May 11 & 12, Corson Auditorium
Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

See More: May 2012 [2], News [3], musical theatre [4], theatre [5], west side story [6]

Source URL: http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/interlochen-arts-academy-presents-west-side-story

Links:
Martina McBride, Steve Martin, Willie Nelson, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, “A Prairie Home Companion,” Styx, Michael W. Smith, Gavin DeGraw, Buddy Guy & Jonny Lang, Umphrey’s McGee, and Michael McDonald, Donald Fagen and Boz Scaggs will be just a few of the stars lighting up the Kresge stage this summer as Interlochen Center for the Arts presents the 2012 Summer Arts Festival.

Over the course of two and a half months, Interlochen will present more than 30 major performances, starting June 10 with a true American treasure, Willie Nelson, and continuing into August when three superstars - Donald Fagen, Michael McDonald and Boz Scaggs - unite under one banner as the Dukes of September.

"We really focused on offering a wide variety of world class entertainers," explains Derek Kwan, executive director of Interlochen Presents.
And this year, Interlochen has done just that. The diverse line-up features something for everyone: from legendary blues guitarists Buddy Guy and Jonny Lang to the chart-topping rock/pop singer Gavin DeGraw; from the powerhouse country vocals of Martina McBride and Montgomery Gentry to Christian Music superstar Michael W. Smith; from the classical virtuosity of baritone Nathan Gunn to the playful, musically-charged science experiments of Doktor Kaboom!; and from one of Shakespeare’s most popular romantic comedies to the cross-cultural comedy of Dat Phan, plus a whole lot more!

**HOW TO ORDER TICKETS**

Tickets may be purchased online at [http://tickets.interlochen.org](http://tickets.interlochen.org) [1]. To purchase tickets over the phone, call the Interlochen Box office at 800-681-5920 or 231-276-7800 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Interlochen operates multiple performance venues during the summer. Online ticket buyers can select their exact seats for shows in Interlochen’s two primary venues, Kresge and Corson Auditoriums. Net proceeds from ticket sales for Interlochen’s Summer Arts Festival support the Interlochen Scholarship fund.

See More: May 2012 [3], News [4], 2012 summer arts festival [5], tickets [6]

**Source URL:** [http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/announcing-2012-interlochen-summer-arts-festival](http://www.interlochen.org/crescendo/announcing-2012-interlochen-summer-arts-festival)

**Links:**

Elizabeth Harmelink (IAC 30) of Canton, Ohio passed away on April 6, 2011.

Mike Wallace (UM 39, IAC St 39) of New York, New York passed away on April 7, 2012.
Motifs: May 2012

Michelle (Mikki) Gillette (IAA 62-65) moved to Los Angeles four years ago from Seattle, Washington. She has recently been seen on the television drama “Weeds” in a guest star role as the therapist. She was also seen this year on “Criminal Minds” and “The Office.” While living in Seattle, seven of Michelle's original children's musicals were produced. An award winning stage director, Michelle has directed over 200 shows in the past 25 years.

Arthur Hamilton (IAC 64-67, IAA 66-68, IAC St 77) works as a massage therapist and graphic artist. He also performs as a pianist and actor.

David Glass (IAC 65-66, IAA 65-67, IAC Staff 69) organized, planned, and emceed a conference for Texas Readers of The Urantia Book which was held last month at Briarwood Retreat Center in Argyle, Texas. The theme was "How God and Man Need Each Other." The Urantia Book is a singularly significant revelation of spiritual truth relating science, philosophy, history, religion (Eastern and Western), and cosmology within a conceptual framework of clarity, coherency, and demonstrable factuality.

Dr. Anne Miller (IAC 65-68, IAA 68-70) is the vice president of strategic partnerships at the Institute for Student Achievement. They focus on helping urban high schools ready their students for success in college. Anne still plays the oboe.

Harpist Marina Morrison Dallago (IAC 66-67, 69, 71, IAA 71-74) and flutist Linda Staum have formed The Lark Duo in Sun Valley, Idaho. After graduating from Interlochen, Marina attended the Cleveland Institute of Music studying harp under the legendary Alice Chalifoux. The Lark Duo performs for local private parties and charity events in the Sun Valley area.

Lewis Saul (IAC 67, 69, IAA 69-70, IAC St 70) premiered his “Sonatina for Viola” at the University of Illinois in 2010, accompanying the faculty violist, Rudolph Haken. He is currently expanding the work into a full-length sonata and is also writing a concerto for violin, viola and orchestra for his two daughters.

Martin Keogh (IAA 74-76) recently released two E-books: “Etched in Your Brain Name Games,” a how to guide for teachers, group facilitators and insightful leader everywhere, and “As Much Time as it Takes,” a handbook for the bereaved, their family and friends.

Karen (Herman) Martin (IAA 74-76) currently teaches music to older adults through North
Orange County Community College in Anaheim, California. She also utilizes her photography and visual arts background as a creative memories consultant. Karen met her husband Dan while teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) and doing mission work in Morocco where they resided for 18 years. Dan presently teaches ESL through University of California, Irvine Extension. Their 17-year old daughter Joanna, who studied music and theatre at Orange County High School of the Arts, is finishing a year in France. Their 20-year old daughter Rhianna works at Disneyland.

Jeff Dalton (IAA 76-79) has been named chairman of the Software Engineering Institute’s partner advisory board. The SEI is a federally funded research and development center at Carnegie Mellon University. He has been president of Broadsword Solutions Corporation since 2004.

Dr. Craig Scott Symons (IAA 76-80), conductor, and Randal Turner (IAA 79-81), baritone will be singing the title role in Felix Mendelssohn’s oratorio “Elijah” in concert with the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Connecticut Festival Chorus and Orchestra on Friday, May 4 at 8:00 p.m.

Raymond Tindell (IAC 76, IAA 77-78) studied at the University of Miami and earned a bachelor’s degree in jazz pedagogy. He then attended SMU Law School and became a practicing attorney dealing with appeals, criminal defense and family law in Portland, Oregon for 25 years. He gigged in Miami with the Haitian group Magnum Band and recorded a record with them. He traveled to Paris and the Caribbean extensively, and again gigged while working as an attorney, playing trumpet/flugelhorn, and also learned flute and tenor sax. Raymond performed for many years with The Art Abrams Swing Machine, Singer Johnny Martin, Latin band Conjunto Allegre, Walter Bridges Big Band, University of Portland Jazz Band, and many others in the Portland area. He has slowed down the gigging these days, but is interested in developing some great flute meditation music. Raymond has been married for 19 years, and his son Kevin will be attending Oregon State University majoring in engineering in the Fall 2012. However, Raymond says Interlochen was utopia, so no other experience could equate!

Diane (Holcomb) Wilshere (IAA 77-79) presented a paper at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association national conference in Boston on “An Actor In Search of a Character: Gertrude Blount Courtenay, the Marchioness of Exeter.”

Gary Barwin (IAC 78, IAA 79-81) is an active writer and composer. The third of his books published in the last year is entitled “Franzlations: the Imaginary Kafka Parables.” He lives with his wife and three children in Hamilton, Ontario where he has great dreams for the English language.

Robin Cobb (IAA 79-82) is a recipient of the 2012 Independent Teacher Fellowship, which is awarded to independent voice teachers who are National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) members. She has been a member of NATS for 20 years. Robin is a vocal instructor of classical/musical theater styles. She has been a professor at Sam Houston State University for seven years specializing in crossover vocal techniques: four years in the classical music department and three years in the musical theater department. Robin is currently the vocal coordinator for the Houston Family Arts Center in Houston, Texas and has a large private vocal studio in Houston. Her students on Broadway include Katie Rose Clarke as Glinda in “Wicked,” Clara Johnson in “The Light in the Piazza,” Nkrumah Gatling as a tribesman in “Hair,” and Ana Hoffman as Deena and Michele in “Dreamgirls” and Maddy in “The City Club.”
Dorothy Duensing (IAC 79, 80) will be the alto soloist in "Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn at First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Michigan on Friday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m. She will be mezzo-soprano soloist in Dvorak's "Stabat Mater" at Fort Street Presbyterian Church, in Detroit, Michigan.

Charles “Chuck” Johnson (IAA St 80-84, IAC St 81-84) is the founding member and co-leader of the CJS Quintet, a hard bop jazz group. CJS Quintet presented a tribute to legendary saxophonist Dexter Gordon on March 6, 2012 at Catalina's Jazz Club in Hollywood, California. The group was honored to have in attendance Gordon's widow, Maxine, from New York.

Selene Carter (IAA 83-87) is a lecturer in contemporary dance at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her son Isaiah is completing second grade. They are members of Bloomington’s Beth Shalom Jewish Center.

Kerensa (Kurry) Thompson (IAC 83, 89-91, IAC 91-93, IAC St 93, 01) will wed Erik Justin Lorton on May 19 in an outdoor ceremony near their home in Los Angeles. Kerensa works in the still photo industry.

Dr. Maria (Jacques) Kostur (IAC 84,86 IAA 86-89) is a cardiologist in the United States Air Force. This year she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and chief of cardiology at Wilford Hall, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Aaron Dworkin's (IAA 86-88) “Uncommon Rhythm: A Black, White, Jewish, Jehovah’s Witness, Irish Catholic Adoptee’s Journey to Leadership” is now available as an audiobook, narrated by Aaron.

Stephanie Shih-yu Cheng (IAA 88-90) is a Steinway Artist and will join American University of Kuwait as an assistant professor of music in the fall 2012.

April Wagner (IAA 89-91) opened a pop-up store in the Compuware Building in Detroit, Michigan which will feature all of their lines of work: Epiphany, the classic styles; Studio E, the newest line of unique gifts; and April Wagner Signature Sculptures, one of kind pieces.

Wendy Masterson (IAA Fac 91-Present, IAC Fac 05) has published two articles featuring her explorations with body-mind centering, a somatic approach toward learning, creativity, and movement practices. One article, “Classroom Connections,” spotlights the application of body-mind centering with the Academy's pre-professional dancers in “Conscious Dancer” magazine. The other article, “Connecting Journeys: A Self Study in Cellular Consciousness” appeared in “Currents,” an international Body-Mind Centering Association (BMCA) publication, along with original artwork. In January 2012, Wendy was elected to the board of directors of BMCA.

Sydney Skybetter’s (IAC 95-98, IAA 99-00, IAC St 00-01) company, Skybetter and Associates, presented the world premiere of “For Want of Sleep,” featuring a commissioned score by the illustrious Sxip Shirey, as well as “Near Abroad,” “Little Boy,” “The Laws of Falling Bodies” and “Temporary Matters.” A talkback with the artists, moderated by luminaries from the dance field, concluded each performance.

Ian Whitney (IAA 96-98) is running for district 120 State Representative in Florida. He is the president of the Key West Innkeepers Association.
Christina Fordney (IAC 98-00, IAA 01-04) will attend graduate school in August at the Pratt Institute, studying arts and cultural management.

Robin Allen LaPlante (IAA 98-99) is now the marketing & communications manager at From the Top, a national music non-profit that showcases and supports young classical musicians through their radio show, "From the Top" as well as other educational programs. She is also a company member with New Exhibition Room Theatre Company and is assisting with the publicity and marketing for the 30th Annual Elliot Norton Awards, which showcase Boston Regional Theatre.

Melissa Fadler (IAC St 99-01, IAA St 99-00) will be taking a job as senior assistant director of recreational sports at Sam Houston State University.

Christina Wallace (IAA 99-01) left her job with the Boston Consulting Group in the fall of 2011 and moved back to New York, where she recently launched Quincy, an ecommerce brand for professional young women. Quincy was a proud gala sponsor of fellow academy alum Rachel Slotnick’s (IAA 98-00) nonprofit Music Crossing Borders. Christina continues to sing with the New York Choral Society and writes regularly on her own blog, The Phi Factor, as well as guest posts for The Daily Muse, ForbesWomen, and Women2.0.


Micah Young (IAA 01-03) recently performed two of his songs with Amos Wolff and Marcie Henderson at the Laurie Beechman Theatre. He also premiered a new song with Marcie Henderson at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in a concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of Vatican II and the work of Pope John XXIII.

(Robert) Kit Williamson (IAA 02-04) recently shot his first national commercial, a paint ad for Ace Hardware. He played a leading role in "Bernard," the second in a series of short films on race relations from Matemotja Productions. In early April, The Black Theatre presented his play "The Gin Dialogues." In addition, he has been working on "Best Friends Forever," a sci-fi horror comedy where he plays a suspicious hipster that the heroines have a run in with on the road to nowhere.

Kyle Ballarta (IAA 03-04) is a part of the founding team of LifeProof which has launched into all Best Buys in the United States, as well as Target, AT&T and Radioshack. Kyle was recently elected to the board of directors for ARTS: A Reason To Survive.

Katie Smiley (IAC 04, IAA 05-07) graduated from Northwestern University in June with a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology, global health, and music. She now lives in Chicago and works as a research assistant at Garibay Group, a small company that does research and evaluation for museums looking to better engage diverse audiences and improve exhibit experiences.

Benton Blasingame (IAC 05-06, IAA 06-08, IAC St 08) is a senior organ performance major at the Eastman School of Music. Benton recently won the national Taylor Organ Competition in Atlanta, Georgia.

Joy Messerschmidt (IAA 05-07) was recently accepted to the PhD program for medical anthropology at the University of Connecticut. She was given a full tuition scholarship as well
as a paid teaching assistantship position. Joy graduated magna cum laude from Georgia State University in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

Kimiko Glenn (IAA 06-07) hosted a question and answer session and was honored at an Artistic Director's Circle Reception following the Valley Youth Theatre's performance of "Freckleface Strawberry, The Musical." Kimiko is an alumna of the Valley Youth Theatre and was part of the original cast of "Freckleface Strawberry, The Musical" in New York City.

Henry Moyerman (IAC 06, IAA 06-08) graduated from Berklee College of Music with a dual major in music production & engineering and electronic production & design in December 2011. He is now an assistant sound editor at Wild Woods Inc. in Los Angeles, California. He is also working on several side projects as a freelance sound designer.

Colton Pometta (IAC 08, IAA 08-09) is the founder of the production company "Laughing Giraffe Productions."

John (Jack) Scott (IAC 09) is currently appearing in the original Broadway cast of "Newsies" as a member of the ensemble.

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