
Alfred University

CenterStage

Performing Arts Newsletter • Fall 2019



Prague Quadrennial. Photo by Lisa Vining

Director's Welcome

This past summer's 6th annual MostArts Festival was truly magical as we witnessed the return of Christopher Zandieh, 14-year-old grand prize winner at our opening Gala Concert. Also, this year we welcomed international super star pianist Joaquin Achucarro. His astonishing performances will forever be remembered. We look forward to our new prize winner, Carey Byron when she returns to Alfred next July, in a performance of Saint-Saens Piano Concerto No. 2 with the International MostArts Festival Orchestra.

Performing Arts at Alfred University is now entering a new era. I am thrilled to introduce three new faculty members: Raul Barcenes in music, Niki Tulk in theatre, and Maureen Weiss in performance design. I am also very pleased to announce the new BA in Music. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a reality.

The season begins on September 14 with the Miller Dance Residency Program premieres with Bridgman|Packer Dance's Truck, an integration of live performance and video technology in which an ordinary truck evolves from the utilitarian into a reimagined space. Our annual East Meets West concert follows, as well as other musical guest artists throughout the semester as listed inside this publication. Watch what happens when steam-punk meets restoration comedy when our season in theatre kicks off with Moliere's satire Tartuffe.

Our season is made possible through the extraordinary generosity of Marlin and Ginger Miller, David and Elizabeth Miller and the Herrick Gallman Fund for the Performing Arts, as well as the support of our many Premiere Club members. If you would like to join our list of sponsors, email Performs@alfred.edu.

Curtain up- Welcome to CenterStage.

Dr. Lisa Lantz
Professor of Music, Chair of Performing Arts
and Artistic Director of the MostArts Festival

SPOTLIGHT ON music

Announcing the New Music Major

Alfred University has taken a significant step to further strengthen its performing arts program with the addition of a new major in music. Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, the University will offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in music.

The University is home to some outstanding facilities in the Miller Performing Arts Center and Miller Theater, which have staged numerous musical performances over the years. For the last six years, the University has hosted the MostArts Festival, a week-long annual celebration of music and art which brings a host of talented musicians to campus each summer. Alfred University currently offers a major and minor in theatre, as well as minors in music, dance and performance design technology.

“The new BA in music is a rather natural outgrowth of Alfred University’s long tradition of music education and performance,” commented Lisa Lantz, professor of music and chair of Performing Arts. “We also have world class facilities for music performance. With the new major we can leverage all these resources into expanded programming and new student enrollment. The MostArts Festival has established an outreach across the country, and we have these tremendous facilities. This major will make music more prominent during the academic year. We’re entering a new era for the Performing Arts Division in terms of potential growth and visibility.”

New Faculty



Raul Barcenes

Dr. Raul G. Barcenes will serve as Assistant Professor of Music where his duties will include conducting bands and teaching music courses at Alfred University. He comes to Alfred from Las Vegas, NV where he taught band and orchestra in the Clark County School District and at Nevada State College. Prior to working in Las Vegas, he taught at Coastal Carolina University, Elon University and the public schools of Texas, North Carolina and California. He holds degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Coastal Carolina University, Chapman University, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Tarleton State University. He is active as a clinician, consultant and conductor in the United States.

Bretzin '88 donation provides AU bands with a new saxophone!

Bill Bretzin '88 was a ceramics engineering major at Alfred, specializing in glass. He subsequently worked for many years with glass manufacturers in Indiana and Oklahoma until he lost his sight. He is now back home in Western New York. Bill played the bass guitar in the jazz band, citing that his experiences in that band were some of the best memories of his life. In high school, he also played the saxophone, so his idea for a donation was to help provide a new baritone sax for the AU Jazz Band.

THANK YOU for making our new sax a reality, Bill!

If you are interested in helping to provide new instruments for our music program, please contact Lisa Lantz, Chair of Performing Arts at 607-871-2562.



“East Meets West” Gala Concert



On Saturday, September 28 at 7:30 pm, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU), will host the “East Meets West” Gala Concert in the AU Miller Theater. This concert will serve as the closing of the 3rd National Conference on Chinese Immersion Programs.

The concert will include performances by professional Chinese musicians, AU students and community members. AU Chinese Language class students will recite traditional poems, AU Music of Guzheng class students will present traditional Chinese music and the Alfred Tai Chi group will perform the Tai Chi Fan. Internationally renowned Chinese flutist Chen Tao, director of the Melody of Dragon, Inc. and Guqin virtuoso Liu Li, president of New York Guqin Association have been invited to perform at the gala. The guqin is a traditional Chinese string instrument. The concert will also include folk dances presented by a dance group from China University of Geosciences (CUG). These Chinese dance students will be visiting AU from Wuhan, China where CUG is located.

Guitar Trio in Recital

On Sunday, October 27th Trio Ghidorah, a classical guitar trio formed by Eastman guitarists Ken Luk, Bernardo Marcondes and Erik Gibelyou will present a recital in Susan Howell Hall at 3:00 pm. The trio made their 2018 debut at a benefit concert in Rochester, New York to raise money for refugees. Since then, they have been engaged around the Greater Rochester area performing a diverse repertoire, which includes compositions and arrangements from the classical canon, contemporary works and Latin American music. The recital is free and open to the public.



High School Invitational Choral Concert, November 17

The Alfred University Chorus and Chamber Singers have invited Olean High School choir and one other local school choir to join forces for an evening of wonderful choral music. The concert will be held in Miller Theater on Sunday, November 17 at 7:00 pm and is free to the public.

Each choir will perform a short solo program and then join together, accompanied by award winning hammer dulcimer player, Dan Duggan. Dan will also provide a

workshop for all students in the afternoon entitled “So What Exactly is a Hammer Dulcimer?”

Dan Duggan, nationally touring performer and teacher, is acknowledged as one of the finest dulcimer players and composers in the country. As recipient of the prestigious National Hammered Dulcimer Championship, Dan’s accomplishment, though based on technical merit, is even more considerable as he is the first winner to have performed all original compositions.

Meet our Music Adjuncts



**Kurt Galván, pianist/
accompanist**

Pianist Kurt Eric Galván is active as a performer in his native Connecticut, and in his adopted upstate New York. He studied with Neal Larrabee, Minyoung Lee, and Irma Vallecillo at

the University of Connecticut (BM, 2009; Performer's Certificate, 2010; MM, 2012) and subsequently with Jean Barr at the Eastman School of Music (MM, Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music, 2014; DMA, 2018).

A prize-winner in the Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition, Kurt is an active accompanist for Summer@Eastman, and has participated in the Oxford Lieder Festival (UK). He has performed across south-east Asia at a variety of venues, including Yamaha Hall in Seoul, Izumi Hall in Tokyo, and the Shanghai Conservatory. He has also performed in the MostArts Festival summer chamber music Series. Kurt Galván holds an adjunct position at Alfred University, where he teaches class piano and private lessons, and also serves as staff accompanist at both AU and SUNY Geneseo.



**Matthew Amedio,
saxophone and winds**

Matthew Amedio is a dedicated educator, performer and chamber musician who teaches saxophone and clarinet at Houghton College, Alfred University, and Roberts

Wesleyan College. He studied saxophone with Chien-Kwan Lin at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY where he currently resides with his fiancée Rianne and their little black cat Luna.



Rachel Decker, flute

Rachel Decker has been the Woodwinds Instructor at Alfred University since 2015. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2016 as a First Place Winner in the American Protégé

International Music Talent Competition. She is one of the conductors for the Rushford Concert Band in the summers. She has been in the National Flute Association Professional Flute Choir in both 2016 and 2017. Her article "10 Tips to Transform a Flutist into a Piccoloist" was published in Music Educators Journal. An interview with her on piccolo playing is published in Teaching Music. Rachel has a Master's of Music in Instrumental Conducting and a Bachelor's of Music in Flute Performance, both from Houghton College.



Ken Luk, guitar

As a guitarist, teacher, and an arranger, Ken Luk actively performs in different solo and chamber music settings. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Ken studied with Dr. Nicholas Goluses

and finished his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music. Prior to his doctoral studies, Ken earned a Master of Art degree in Music Theory Pedagogy at Eastman. As one of the cofounders of Rochester Classical Guitar, he organizes various events to help promote classical guitar in the Greater Rochester Area. Apart from the classical guitar repertoire, Ken has strong interests in and frequently performs music of Brazil, Indonesia, Jamaica and Zimbabwe.

**Christopher Lynn,
brass**

Mr. Lynn graduated from SUNY Geneseo in 2004 with his BA in Music Composition. He went on to study at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam where he received his Master's degree in Music Education.



He is an avid performer, currently playing in several community and semi-professional ensembles in the area, including the Hornell Area Wind Ensemble, Corning Community Band, Southern Tier All Star Jazz Band, and Sterling Brass Quintet. He also teaches and directs the Hornell Little Band, an adult beginner-intermediate band, and Odd Combination, an intermediate level jazz ensemble made up of both high school and adult musicians. Chris has played with the AU Concert Band since 2014. He has taught privately at an advanced level on trumpet and horn, and at an intermediate level on all other woodwind and brass instruments. Music theory, history, and composition are additional interests of his.

A.J. Todd, French horn

Former math professor with 20 years of horn playing experience, A.J. Todd received his degrees from University of Rochester, and University of Texas, Arlington. In addition to horn, he enjoys teaching music theory, history and bagpipes.



Rintaro Wada, cello/bass

Rintaro Wada is a cellist of the Western NY Chamber Orchestra, the MostArts Festival Orchestra, the Orchestra of Southern Finger Lakes, Felix Ensemble, and Allegany Quartet. He is

the Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Olean, Director of Olean High School Orchestra, and Cello instructor of the Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton College and Alfred University.

He studied at Eastman School of Music (MM) and Showa University of Music (BM). He studied the cello performance with Ryoichi Hayashi, Joichi Sano, Hirofumi Kanno, Nathaniel Rosen, Marcy Rosen, Stefan Reuss, Steven Doane, Alan Harris, and Kathleen Kemp. He studied chamber music with Kishiko Suzumi, Mitsuko Segawa, Takashi Shimizu, Yasushi Toyoshima, Takahiro Sonoda, Richard Killmer, Paul O'Dette, Christel Thielmann, members of the Amadeus, Bartok, Ying, and Fine Arts Quartets.



**Rebecca Weaver Hamm,
voice**

Rebecca Weaver Hamm, soprano, is an Adjunct Instructor of Voice at Alfred University and Director of Music and Arts at the Hornell Area Family YMCA, where she leads a team

of artist-teachers to provide high-quality instruction for children through adults. At Alfred University, Rebecca's students sing repertoire from a variety of genres, including classical, folk, and contemporary pop, jazz and musical theatre from Franz Schubert to Frank Ocean. To date, four of her voice students have been selected for the NYS All-State Chorus.



**Dustin Woodard,
percussion**

Dustin Woodard has been playing drum set and percussion for over 20 years. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from California State University, Northridge and

his Master of Music degree from Houghton College. He served as a full time visiting professor from 2018-2019 at Alfred University. This past summer, Mr. Woodard served as principal percussionist during the MostArts Festival's evening concert series. Currently he teaches music at Alfred University and Houghton College and is the principal percussionist of the Southern Tier Symphony.

Welcome New Faculty!

The Performing Arts Theatre Department and Performance Design & Technology Department welcome two new faculty members.



Niki Tulk

Associate professor and department head of the Theatre, Niki Tulk is an Australian theatre-maker and writer now permanently based in the US. Niki has most recently been training actors at the University

of Colorado Boulder, where she has also completed two PhDs: one in Theatre & Performance Studies, and another in Intermedia Art, Writing & Performance. Niki's research explores a feminist, embodied and ethical poetics approach around the performance of trauma experience. She has been studying with Ruth Zaporah (Action Theater) for many years and her international, collaborative arts practice combines physical improvisation, music/sound, material and language-based poetics—and occasionally a custom-made

re-pluckable chicken. Niki is thrilled to be here with her family at Alfred University, and looks forward to making-up for her childhood years of snow deprivation.



Maureen Weiss

Associate professor and department head of Performance Design & Technology, Maureen Weiss is a scenographer, costume designer and installation artist. For the past 10 years, she has been on faculty at Loyola

Marymount University in Los Angeles. She received her undergraduate degree from The University of Southern California, and a Master of Fine Arts in Scenic Design at California State University, Long Beach. Her art and designs have been seen on stages and galleries in California and New York. Maureen and Niki will be collaborating on the fall theatre production of Moliere's comedy *Tartuffe*. Maureen, her husband and two young children have recently purchased a house in the village, and are eagerly looking forward to the fall.

Visiting Faculty



Eliza Beckwith

Eliza Beckwith is a graduate of Alfred (B.A., Drama, '78), lives in Brooklyn, NY, and is thrilled to be returning for the fourth time to teach in the Performing Arts Division. In 2108 she was at Alfred where she directed

Blithe Spirit and taught Playwriting. Last summer Eliza coordinated the residency of New York's Youngblood Playwrights during the MostArts Festival. She is an active and lifelong member of The Ensemble Studio Theatre,

the parent company of Youngblood, and has directed four times in their renowned Marathon of One-Act Plays. She is also Co-Artistic Director of New Directions Theater, where she most recently directed *Tiny Bubbles* by Richard Willett. Mr. Willett's acclaimed play *The Flid Show*, had its premiere at Alfred, and was subsequently produced twice in New York City. This summer, Eliza directed *The Night They Lit Up Wrigley* for Upstate Productions at The Church Performance Space in Mt. Vision New York coinciding with Induction Weekend at the Baseball Hall of Fame in nearby Cooperstown.

Alumni Spotlight: Fitch and Busch



Katie Fitch

Katie Fitch is a recent Alfred University grad with a BA in English and a Performance Design & Technology minor, is currently working as a professional

stage manager in NYC. She is working on a small show called *THE NIGHT THEY LIT UP WRIGLEY* with director Eliza Beckwith '78 which opened in Cooperstown during the Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Weekend. Katie credits the Stage Management course she took as a part of the PDAT program as part of the reason for her current

employment. She is extremely excited for this new, and hopefully long, chapter in her life.

Sarah Busch

Chester Theatre Company, located near the Berkshire Mountains in Massachusetts, is a different kind of theater. Unlike a typical theater, they do not have an auditorium but instead borrow the town hall located in Chester for their summer performances. Interns work on productions, and Sarah's job as the Carpenter and Props intern is to install each set, and create or locate props for the performances. She works closely with the Master Carpenter and Props Master to accomplish the various tasks, and has the opportunity to discuss with the designers their vision for the performance. Although a challenging environment this summer, Sarah believes she has discovered new ways to problem solving and finding creative solutions in a space that was built for a different function.

Students in the News

Congratulations to our Theatre students as they prepare for the 2020 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Three students have been nominated from last spring's production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* for the Irene Ryan Acting Audition. They are Abbi Smith, Jakob Perez, and Rebecca Burns with Howard Lang as the alternate. Good Luck at the festival this winter!



Truck Performance by Bridgman|Packer Dance

The Miller Dance Residency Program is proud to announce the kick off to its 2019 – 20 season with *Truck* by Bridgman|Packer Dance

Performed inside of a 17-ft box truck, Bridgman|Packer Dance's *Truck* brings performance to unusual locations. Through Bridgman|Packer's signature integration of live performance and video technology, an ordinary box truck evolves from the utilitarian into a re-imagined space, a micro-world of magical visions and transformation. With constant shifts of context and scale, startling imagery emerges; a house of a thousand rooms, an aquarium, and a leafy hideaway come alive. The work ranges from evocative to humorous, to sensuous, to wacky.

"Their fabulous new wordless dramas...bridge time, space, and passion, showing us past and present simultaneously...startling, time-based visual art." *The Village Voice*.

Truck will be performed Sept 14th outside of Harder Hall in AU's Academic Alley. There will be three separate performances starting at 8pm, each lasting approximately 20 minutes.

The *Truck* performance will be accompanied by a live interactive installation Video Playground in the Harder Hall Immersive Gallery inviting participants of all ages to experience Bridgman|Packer Dance up close and personal and explore the duality and morphing of self and image. 8 – 10 pm. There will also be viewings of their 8-minute Site-Specific Dance/Drone Film: *Look Out* in Holmes Auditorium.

Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer, collaborators in choreography and performance and Co-Artistic Directors of Bridgman|Packer Dance, are known for their work integrating live performance and video technology. They were awarded a 2017 New York and Performance *continued*

Award for Outstanding Production (*The Bessies*). Bridgman|Packer Dance has toured throughout the USA and abroad in Europe, Asia, The Middle East, and Central America.

The 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship awarded to Bridgman and Packer was the first in the history of the Guggenheim Foundation to be given to two individuals for their collaborative work. They are also recipients of eleven National Endowment for the Arts Grants (2007-2019),

a National Dance Project Touring Award, four National Performance Network's Creation Fund Awards, and grants from New England Foundation for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, and New York State Council for the Arts.

Bridgman|Packer Artist Talk - Sept 13th at 4:30 pm in the Holmes Auditorium

All events are free to the public.

African Dance

The Alfred University Dance Department is thrilled to welcome Dancer/Sankofa Artistic Director/professor Jenise Akilah Anthony to teach African Dance this Fall. Anthony will be accompanied by drummer/dancer/teacher Mohamed Diaby.



Jenise Akilah Anthony, a native artist of Trinidad and Tobago, is an Assistant Professor of African Dance and Artistic Director of the Sankofa African Dance & Drum Ensemble at the College at Brockport, State University of New York. She has been a dance educator and choreographer for over 10

years, working both nationally and internationally. She is renowned for her African Diaspora dance work and tutelage that is hinged on both traditional and contemporary African dance genres such as West African, Caribbean Folk, Modern Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Modern.

Drummer and choreographer Mohamed Diaby, is an acclaimed musician from Guinea, West Africa. Diaby began playing the djembe at age seven, under the supervision of his elder brother. By 15, he was asked to join a group sponsored by the wife of Guinea's president. Encouraged



to continue by world famous djembefola, Mamady Keita, Diaby joined Africa Djole. He later joined Les Merveilles de Guinea as lead drummer, touring all over West Africa. While still away from home, Kemoko Sano, artistic director of the world-renowned troupe

Les Ballet Africains, approached Diaby's father saying, "When your son returns, I want him to join my group because I love his drumming!!" In 2015, and again in 2017, Diaby was awarded the NYSCA DEC Grant for Arts in Education. Diaby is currently a guest artist for Sankofa and will be creating a work for the College at Brockport, State University of New York dance students.

Alfred University Dance Minors Creating and Performing at the Prague Quadrennial

Six Alfred University students who minored in Dance (current and alumni) were selected to participate in the esteemed international performance design festival the Prague Quadrennial in the Czech Republic this summer.

Emma Hildebrandt '19 has been selected from a very competitive pool of international artists to participate in the Dirty Electronics experimental work group in sound in response to the *Blue Hour Installation*. She will be collaborating with six other international artists over the course of a few days to create this work.

Jillian Hagadorn '19, Carly Moldow '20, and three other alumni who minored in Dance, Danielle Heyder '16, Emily Smith '13, and Kira Oglesby '16, were selected to perform in featured works created by international choreographers to be a part of *Formations*.

Furthering the AU presence at PQ, Laurel Jay Carpenter (former AU IART Art professor) and Terese Longva BFA '08 were selected to be a part of *Formations*, as well as Natalie Robin (former AU PDAT professor), Nick Tobier (former AU Art



From left Michelle Illuminato, D. Chase Angier, Teresa Longva, Laurel Jay Carpenter, Emily Smith, Nate Gibson

professor), and Marlin Miller Dance Residency artists Martha Brim and Jordan Fuchs, BFA. Marketa Fantova, (former AU PDAT professor) is the Artistic Director of the Prague Quadrennial. Nate Gibson '13, Michelle Illuminato (former AU Art professor) and Evelyne Leblanc Roberge MFA '11 (and former AU Expanded Media professor) attended the festival.

Formations was a curated section of PQ that investigates the impact of movement, structures and patterns by dynamically combining diverse artists, designers and architects to explore the amalgamation of architecture and performance with time-based performative actions. *Formations* was co-curated by Alfred University Dance professor and choreographer D. Chase Angier and Norway based Architect and Scenography professor Serge von Arx. Angier and Arx selected 39 artists from 32 countries to create performances that intersected with the public, the site and other artists in the plaza of the Industrial Palace Výstaviště in Prague.



Jillian Hagadorn, Carly Moldow, Emma Hildebrandt

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 13 **Truck Dance Master Class.** Time and Place TBA
- 14 **Truck Performance by Bridgman|Packer Dance.** An ordinary truck evolves from the utilitarian into a reimagined space, a micro-world of visions and transformation. The company's engaging live interactive installation "Video Playground" invites participants of all ages to experience the magic of Bridgman|Packer Dance up close and personal. Three 20 minute performances. Front of Harder Hall, 8:00pm
- 28 **Confucius Institute.** The Alfred University Confucius Institute presents its annual "East Meets West" Concert. Miller Theater, 7:30pm

OCTOBER

- 27 **Ken Luk Guitar Trio.** Susan Howell Hall, 3:00pm
- 31 **Halloween Orchestra Concert.** Come dressed as your favorite ghost, goblin or ghoul for a fabulously frightful evening. Holmes Auditorium in Harder Hall, 8:15pm

NOVEMBER

- 6-9 **Theatre Production.** Enormous wigs, luscious gowns, seduction and religious hypocrisy—some things never get old. Watch what happens when steam-punk meets restoration comedy in Alfred University Theatre Department's Fall Production of *Tartuffe* by Molière. Niki Tulk to direct. C.D. Smith III Theatre, 7:30pm
- 17 **Choral Concert.** Invitational Choral Concert. The AU Choirs are joined by local high school students and directors for an evening of wonderful choral music. Miller Theater, 7:00pm
- 22 **Jazz Band Concert.** Miller Theater, 7:30pm
- *23 **Musical Guest** Featuring violinist Blanca Gonzalez. Miller Theater, 7:30pm
- 24 **Student Recital.** Miller Theater, 3:00pm

DECEMBER

- 5-6 **Informal Dance Showing.** Presenting AU Dance Program's faculty and students' creative work. Also compositions from independent choreographers. CD Smith III Theatre, 6:00pm
- 6 **Orchestra Holiday Concert.** Miller Theater, 7:30pm
- 7 **Concert Band.** Miller Theater, 7:30pm
- 8 **Student Recital.** Howell Hall, 3:00pm

Stay tuned for announcements for upcoming Carillon Recitals this fall.

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Alfred University

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Alfred University MostArts *Festival* SUMMER MUSIC & ART

Save the Date for MostArts 2020:
July 12-18!

Visit our website for information and updates:
www.alfred.edu/MostArts or contact Lisa Lantz,
Artistic Director at MostArts@alfred.edu.

MostArts Young Pianist Competition 2019.

*From left, Sora Hoppo,
Shuheng Zhang,
Kaelem Michel, Carey
Byron (Grand Prize
Winner and Audience
Favorite-Friday), LiYuan
Byrne (Audience
Favorite-Thursday),
Maxine Park (Judges'
Discretionary Award),
Ethan Yuen (Third
Prize), Hyeonuk Park
(Second Prize).*

