
Alfred University CenterStage

Division of Performing Arts Newsletter • Fall 2018



Director's Welcome

A new academic year is once again about to begin. As we carry with us the Alfred summer of warm air, green hillsides and the cheer of community friendships, we look forward to the rigor of a renewed commitment to learning by experiencing the discoveries that only Performing Arts can deliver. Join us at Holmes Auditorium, Susan Howell Hall, and at the Miller Performing Arts Complex for our events. Here at Alfred University, we offer a world of music, dance and drama to entertain and inspire. Our commitment is to bring enjoyment, knowledge and meaning to life. Welcome to Center Stage.

Our 2017-2018 performances are made possible through the extraordinary generosity of Marlin and Ginger Miller, David and Elizabeth Miller, the Herrick-Gallman Fund for the Performing Arts, Hillel at Alfred, as well as the support of our many Premiere Club members.

This season premieres Friday, September 8th in Holmes Auditorium with Journey West, a unique music ensemble exploring the migration of melody from east to west, featuring two remarkable refugee musicians from Iraq and Syria.

Dr. Lisa Lantz

Professor of Music, Founding Director of the MostArts Festival
and Chair of Performing Arts at Alfred University

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Celebrating 10 years of Chinese Music and Culture



Confucius Institute will celebrate its 10th anniversary at Alfred University with cultural activities, lectures and demonstrations throughout the fall culminating in a Gala Concert on Friday, November 2nd at 7:30 PM in Miller Theater.

The concert opens with the famous Dragon and Lion Dance, presented by AU Chinese Language students, and includes presentations by children from Geneva City School District, Alfred University Chorus and Chamber Singers, AU Guzheng Ensemble, and distinguished Chinese musicians from New York City, Binghamton and Wuhan, China.

Lin Ma, Chinese ipa (lute) artist, comes to AU from New York City. She is among the top ten pipa masters accredited by China Central Television and is frequently featured in their music program *Elegant Chinese Music*. She has been lauded by audiences in the United States, Australia, Canada and across Western Europe. Ma is the first Chinese folk instrumentalist invited to perform on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. and to perform a pipa recital at the United Nations in New York City.

As a musician dedicated to bridging cultures, she has collaborated with United Nations Peace Concert and Renwen Society of China Institute in New York City to promote Chinese music and culture.

Visiting artists from the Confucius Institute of Chinese Opera at Binghamton University will perform excerpts from Peking Opera. The acrobatic movements of Peking Opera combined with elaborate and colorful costumes will present a feast for the eyes.

Yuan Yue, visiting artist from China University of Geosciences (CUG), CIAU's partner university in China, will perform traditional Chinese songs. Yue is a traditional Chinese singer and scholar. Students from CUG will also present Chinese dances.

Mr. An Ren Yu, Swimming Dragon Tai Chi Grand Master, returns to AU to work and perform with the AU Tai Chi group.

The evening promises to be a grand celebration of Chinese music, movement and culture. The concert is free and open to the Alfred Community.

Waiting for Godot

The Theatre Department is thrilled to have a Director, Actor, Playwright and Screenwriter in residence this semester. Mr. G.D. Kimble will be teaching classes as well as directing Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot."



G.D. Kimble has performed in theatres across the country. He was seen most recently in *Naked Fish* and *The Tiger Cage* with TheatreMasters, *365 Days/Plays with Engine 37* and *Which Direction Home?* with The Internationalists.

He is a native of Louisiana, where he has performed or directed with Swine Palace, The New Orleans Shakespeare Festival, Marjorie Lyons Playhouse, Playmakers of Baton Rouge and the Theatre of Ill-Repute.

Mr. Kimble is the author of numerous plays, and his first full length work, *Megiddo*, opened to rave reviews at Manhattan Repertory Theatre in 2009.

His play, *Jen Tries Vacation*, premiered at Access Theatre, produced by Everyday Inferno. In 2016, Mr. Kimble opened *The Gentrification Cycle*, a double-bill of his plays consisting of the west coast premiere of *Jen Tries Vacation* and the world premiere of *Locomotive Repair in Three Easy Steps*, in Los Angeles, CA, receiving a nomination for the Inkwell Playwright's Promise Award.

Currently, his film *Abigail & Libby* (screenwriter) is being featured in film festivals around the country, and two others, *Need* and *Two Irishmen Are Digging a Ditch*, are in development.

Mr. Kimble teaches acting in NYC, and his students have appeared in many prominent regional theatres, on Broadway, in major films and in television programs. He is an adjunct instructor at the American Conservatory Theater's Young Conservatory. Mr. Kimble is a graduate of Shakespeare & Company Training Congress in Lenox, MA, holds a BA in theatre performance from Louisiana State University and an MFA in acting from the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, CA. He lives in NYC.

"I'm thrilled to be spending the semester at Alfred University and working with this next generation of young artists, challenging and preparing them to go make magic in the world. It's an amazing time for AU Performing Arts, and the opportunity to come here to direct *Waiting for Godot*, one of the most important plays of the last 100 years, was something I had to do. Along with the excellent new play *Men On Boats* early this fall, and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in the spring, this is a powerhouse season for AU Theatre; I'm lucky to be part of it. I'd like to thank this great community for your warm welcome and support. I look forward to meeting and entertaining all of you."

– G.D. Kimble, Visiting Director

Opening Theatre Production: Jaclyn Backhaus's *Men on Boats*

Set in the summer of 1869, *Men on Boats* captures the high tension and great adventure of John Wesley Powell and his crew in the "FIRST" trip down the Colorado and through the Grand Canyon. The events of this highly imaginative play are taken from journals of Powell and the other daring men as they ventured "down the Great Unknown."

Join the actors who play the brave "MEN" on a true odyssey of discovery – of truth in a broader understanding of history and many cultures.

Catch the performances of *Men on Boats* in the greater river of time at the C.D. Smith, III Theatre in the Miller Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday Oct. 3 through Saturday Oct. 6. Paddle in!

SPOTLIGHT ON music

Publiquartet headline

The Music Department kicks off the fall season with NYC based PUBLIQuartet in residence September 12-14. Applauded by The Washington Post as “a perfect encapsulation of today’s trends in chamber music,” and by The New Yorker as “independent-minded,” PUBLIQuartet’s creative programming lends a fresh perspective to the Classical music scene.

The quartet will work with members of the AU Orchestra and Saxon String Quartet providing insights into techniques for orchestral string section playing and chamber music techniques through workshops and classes. The PUBLIQuartet will give a Bergren Forum on Thursday, September 13, at 12:10 in Nevins Theater. The Residency will then culminate in a free public performance on Friday, September 14, at 7:30 in Miller Theater.

OPTIONAL- use only if needed

Dedicated to presenting new works for string quartet, PUBLIQuartet was selected as Concert Artists Guild’s New Music/New Places Ensemble at the 2013 CAG

Competition, and then garnered Chamber Music America’s 2015 ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award for outstanding and innovative approaches to contemporary classical, jazz, and world chamber music. PQ’s genre-bending programs span the classical canon and also feature open-form improvisations that expand the techniques and aesthetic of the traditional string quartet. PUBLIQuartet’s commitment to support emerging composers inspired their innovative program, PUBLIQ Access, designed in 2014 to promote emerging composers and to present a wide variety of under-represented music for string quartet—from classical, jazz and electronic, to non-notated, world and improvised music. The best of these works are included on PUBLIQuartet’s new self-titled debut album, which was released in fall 2015 on CAG Records, and they will premiere three brand new works during the 2017-18 season, written for PQ by Jessica Meyer, Steven Snowden and Xian Wang. PUBLIQuartet’s educational mission is to share



Sha'Leah Nikole

Sha'Leah Nikole is an NAACP Theatre Award winning singer, songwriter, actress and mentor from the East side of Los Angeles. Ms. Nikole's love for the Arts began at age 8 when she attended Amazing Grace Conservatory under the direction of Wendy Raquel Robinson and the Late Tracy L. Coley. This is where she developed her passion for music, performing and leadership. While pursuing her Bachelor's degree at Alfred University, she never gave up on her dream. Ms. Nikole began song-writing and singing background vocals which has led to the privilege of working with Def Jam, Dave Stewart (of the Eurythmics), Grammy Award winning production team 1500 or Nothin and Mattel on a number of American Girl products. She has also performed as a Solo artist nationally at the House of Blues, The Troubadour, David Tutera's Celebrations on WeTV and internationally at The Arusha in Japan. Currently Ms. Nikole is an instructor at Amazing Grace Conservatory a theatrical training institute in Los Angeles, a solo artist and the founder of a new non-profit organization My Footprints (a team-based mentoring program). This year, she starred in her first off-Broadway production. "Take on Me," a new musical



Sha'Leah Nikole

which performed to sold out houses in NYC. Ms. Nikole is also working on re-releasing her EP, "The Queen Issue," which is available on all streaming platforms. While at Alfred University, Ms. Nikole played the role of Asaka in "Once on This Island," co-directed by Steve and Luanne Crosby. She also created a Gospel choir with fellow alumni Chaz Bruce. "I enjoyed my time at Alfred University, and I was honored to receive voice lessons with the amazing Luanne Crosby. Learning from both Luanne and Steve Crosby taught me so much and helped shape me into the woman I am today."

Performance of John Rutter's *Gloria*

The Alfred University Chorus and Chamber Singers will join the Roberts Wesleyan Choir for a performance of John Rutter's *Gloria* in the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church on Saturday October 27 at 7:30 PM. The majestic work, accompanied by brass quintet, percussion and organ will be conducted by Dr. Adam Potter, director of the choirs at Roberts. The concert

will also feature performances by each of the choirs as well as combined choir on the American spiritual Unclouded Day.

The performance will be repeated on Sunday, November 4 at 4:00PM in the beautiful Asbury First United Methodist Church on East Avenue in Rochester. Both concerts are free.

New Textbook by Colleen Wahl



Sha'Leah Nikole

Visiting Assistant Instructor of Dance Colleen (Culley) Wahl has just completed a new textbook: Laban/Bartenieff Movement Studies: Contemporary Applications.

In this engaging and practical

text, author Colleen Wahl presents a detailed and clear discussion on how to best use Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis (L/BMA), a system for observing, teaching and analyzing human movement.

Laban/Bartenieff Movement Studies: Contemporary Applications offers a framework for understanding movement as it influences our perceptions of ourselves and others. In moving through that framework, Ms. Wahl explains what the movement analysis is, how it works and how readers can use it in their lives.

Ms. Wahl became a Certified Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analyst in 2006 through Integrated Movement Studies. She has taught many graduate and undergraduate courses in Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis including at The College at Brockport, Hobart and William Smith Colleges and most recently at Alfred University, where she is a visiting assistant professor of dance.

Ms. Wahl holds a Master's degree in Fine Arts in Dance from The College at Brockport, a Master's degree in Liberal Studies from SUNY Empire State College, and a Bachelor's degree in Dance and Arts Education from William Smith College.

Laura Smith headline????? '08

Laura Smith '08, Alfred University dance minor alumna recently completed her MFA in ceramics at the University of Colorado, Boulder, using her passion for movement to inform her creative investigations. Her work asks the question, "How can I invest sculpture with the same presence and seduction as performance?" Laura creates a theater of objects by crafting compositions with temporary materials, such as raw clay and ice, where certain elements collapse and disappear from the scene. Ms. Smith also makes play-scapes in which kids can participate. She and her

colleague, Caitlin Deane, created a permanent children's play-space and creative benching system at Cal-Earth Institute of Art and Architecture. According to Ms. Smith, "The AU dance program and its instructors left an unforgettable mark on my artistic career. It allowed me to take myself seriously as a creator and choreographer, equipping me with essential skills in directing, creative expression, collaboration, and the communication necessary to create a professional production."



Evelyne Leblanc-Roberge, '11 and D. Chase Angier travel to France for new work

Murmur, an outdoor site-specific performance piece was co-created by Alfred University Dance Professor D. Chase Angier and University of Washington Professor Jennifer Salk and was performed at Chateau La Coste in Provence, France. The work was created in collaboration with, and performed by three dancers: Jo Blake, Sean O'Bryan, and Beth Graczyk from New York City and Seattle, Washington. Inspired by the unique landscape,

art and architecture of Chateau La Coste, *Murmur*, with its often subtle and sometimes powerful movement added live performance into the existing conversation between site and art. Evelyne Leblanc-Roberge, a former AU Expanded Media MFA graduate (Class of 2011) and Associate Professor at The University of Rochester traveled to France to document the four 45-minute performances and will be creating a short film.

Performing Arts Office News



Kendra Fonash is our new secretary in Performing Arts. She and her husband, Stephen recently bought a house in Canistota, where they will reside along with their dog, Athena and cat, Cyrus. Kendra has lived in Germany, Belgium, Vermont, North Carolina, and mostly recently Pennsylvania. In addition to traveling, she enjoys camping, kayaking, food, music, and learning about other cultures. "I look forward to getting to know everyone and am delighted to be a part of Performing Arts at Alfred University." We welcome Kendra to our Performing Arts Team!

Division of Performing Arts
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Performing Arts Fall Calendar 2018

SEPTEMBER

Herrick-Gallman Guest Artist Series

12-14 Music Residency: NYC based PUBLIQuartet

- 14 PUBLIQuartet Concert.** Applauded by *The Washington Post* as "a perfect encapsulation of today's trends in chamber music," PUBLIQuartet brings a fresh and innovative approach to contemporary, classical, jazz, and world chamber music. Miller Theater, 7:30 PM

David Miller Guest Artist Series

25-28 Music Residency: Peggy Lynn & Dan Duggan

- 28 Peggy Lynn & Dan Duggan in Concert.** An evening of Traditional and original folk music, featuring songs composed by the FYE music class. Herrick Library, 7:30 PM

OCTOBER

- 3-6 Theatre Production.** *Men on Boats* is a wild ride through Grand Canyon on the "first" voyage down the Colorado River. In this re-play of the Powell expedition, laughter and danger intertwine with rapids and erosion of the rocks of the ages. C.D. Smith, III Theatre, 7:30 PM
- 27 Choral Concert.** John Rutter's fantastic "Gloria" for choir, brass and organ with the combined choirs of Alfred University, Roberts Wesleyan College and Dansville Central School. Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 7:30 PM

NOVEMBER

- 2 CIAU Anniversary.** Join us as the Confucius Institute of Alfred University celebrates its 10th Anniversary featuring musicians from China and NYC. Miller Theater, 7:30 PM

Visiting Theatre Director, G.D. Kimble

- 7-10 Theatre Production.** *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett challenges two laborers to wait for the arrival of Godot. The men distract themselves with funny games and conversations while struggling to understand our cosmos. This tragicomedy is a "must see" for everyone in this post-modern world. C.D. Smith III Theatre, 7:30 PM
- 16 Symphony Orchestra Concert.** Featuring student soloists in concert. Miller Theater, 7:30 PM
- 17 Symphonic Band Concert.** Come hear an exciting night of music from Ticheli, Grainger, Whitacre and more. Miller Theater, 7:30 PM
- 18 Student Recital Miller.** Susan Howell Hall, 3 PM
- 29-30 Informal Dance Showing.** Presenting AU Dance Program's faculty and students' creative work, and compositions from independent choreographers. Limited seating. CD Smith III Theatre, 6 PM

DECEMBER

- 1 Jazz Band Concert.** A wide variety of music, some old classics and some new music. Everything from Funk to Swing to Mambo. Miller Theater, 7:30 PM
- 2 Student Recital.** Miller Theater, 3 PM