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# Alfred University CenterStage

Division of Performing Arts Newsletter • Spring 2017



## Welcome to the 2017 Performing Arts Spring Season!

*We are especially delighted to introduce Natalie Robin, our Visiting Assistant Professor of Performance Design and Technology. Her energy, artistry and expertise were featured in last semester's production of The Ash Girl to rave reviews (see above). Preparations are already underway for our April production of Shakespeare's As You Like It, which will once again feature her designs.*

*Through the generosity of Marlin and Ginger Miller, David and Elizabeth Miller, the Herrick-Gallman Fund, the Robert Hutter Fund for Performing Arts, and our many Premiere Club members, we are able to bring an eclectic and diverse season of visiting artists and residencies to campus to inspire our students as well as enlighten and entertain our audiences. Please join us for a variety of concerts and performances in Music, Drama and Dance. The season's overture is the music of winter, which introduces us to the color of spring. We have much to look forward to in Performing Arts at Alfred University. Curtain UP!*

Dr. Lisa Lantz  
Professor of Music and Chair of Performing Arts

# SPOTLIGHT ON theatre

## Welcome Visiting Assistant Professor of Design, Natalie Robin

Performing Arts is thrilled to welcome Natalie Robin as our new Visiting Assistant Professor of Performance Design and Technology. A New York City based lighting designer of theater, opera, dance, music and performance art, Natalie's design work often focuses on new American plays, contemporary dance and site-specific work.

Recent notable designs include: *White at Danspace Project* choreographed by Michelle Boulé; *The Bad and the Better*, directed by Daniel Aukin; *Next Fall* at Dallas Theater Center; *The King of Second Avenue* at New Rep Theatre; *Trade Practices* with David Evans Morris and Kristin Marting on Governor's Island; the New England Premiere of *In Darfur* for WAM Theatre; and *The Seagull on Ames Farm* for Opera House Arts, Stonington, ME. She has been a guest artist at Bard College, Muhlenberg College, Hofstra University, the University of New Haven and Williams College, as well as at the



Lincoln Center Director's Lab. She has been an adjunct faculty member NYU/Tisch and the University of New Haven.

In addition to her design work, Natalie is the Associate Producer and a founding company member of Polybe + Seats and an Associate Artist of Target Margin Theater. Natalie was the winner of the Apollo Lighting 2011 Standing O Award, a Live Design Magazine 2008 Young Designer to Watch, and a Rolex Mentors

and Protégés Arts Initiative 2014 nominee. Natalie is a contributing writer for both *Live Design* and *Stage Directions*. In 2017, Natalie will be designing Michelle Boulé's new evening length work *Monomyth*. Her residency is partially funded by the Herrick Gallman Performing Arts Fund.

## Congratulations Richard Beam!

Richard Beam, AU 2020, has had his ten minute play accepted for a directed reading at the 2017 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival! The Vendor was one of six 10 minute plays selected from a field of approximately 120. The Vendor features a person forced to raise money to repair a damaged vending machine, which he punched out when it ate his money and refused to dispense his purchase. The play will be casted, rehearsed, and performed under the direction of Bob Bartlett, of the National Playwrighting Program, a wing of the college theatre festival. Richard's short play was written, revised, and performed as part of the Intro to Theatre class taught by Becky Prophet this past fall.



Cover Image: Natalie Robin's set design for the November 2016 production of *The Ash Girl*, a contemporary twist on *Cinderella* and starred Delaney O'Hare '18.



## Guest Artists to Collaborate on Theatre Production

Performing Arts is very excited to bring two NYC artists to Miller who will collaborate with our students and faculty on the upcoming theatre production, “As You Like It.”



Annie Simon is a New York-based Costume Designer for film and theater. Some of her recently released Feature films include *Anesthesia*, *The Letter*, *Druid Peak*, and *Wildlike*. A shorter production, *Before the Bomb*, was featured at the Cannes Film Festival. Annie

has won The Kennedy Center Award for Outstanding Costume Design for the play, *Bartholomew Fair*, at

Muhlenberg College. Annie received a BA from Muhlenberg College and an MFA from Tisch NYU.



Sound designer, Adam Salberg is a composer and multi-disciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. He has worked with off Broadway and regional theatres. His design credits include: *The Woodsman* (New World Stages), *The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway*, *All the Fine Boys*, *Some of the Things Inside*, and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Yale). Adam is a graduate of Fordham University, and a member of the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association. These residencies are generously sponsored by the Herrick-Gallman Performing Arts Fund.

## Notes on *As You Like It*, from Director Becky Prophet

One of the many things to love about *As You Like It* are the many plots of *As you Like It*. Really. This play contains two sibling battles of epic proportions, cross-dressing, flights in the night, at least three love affairs, a forest setting, two castle settings, and lilting descriptions of all of them.



first use of the phrase “Too much of a good thing” is immortalized in *As You Like It*. The sensible speech about time, delivered by Rosalind dressed as Ganymede, both teases and teaches the love-sick Orlando with the wisdom of moderation, while he hopes to be able to give up his infatuation.

*As You Like It* takes us from brooding castles and fraternal battles to dappled forests, open fields, and many romances. The pure wholesomeness of forest allows for many romances to flourish, while the brooding bastions built by men force people out to find the sunlight and joy of life in the Forest of Arden. The ending is happy. Each thread of the many plots are loosely braided together to the for couples to find bliss and for the satisfaction of all. It is truly “as you like it,” in today’s rough and tumble world.

The famous speech of “All the World’s a Stage” is delivered by the sad Jaques in a forest glade. The

The actors will be drawn from Alfred University students and community members. Natalie Robin, visiting professor, will design scenery and lighting. Guest artist Annie Simon, will design the costumes. Zachary Hamm will serve as technical director. Deb MacCrea will manage the costume shop. Becky Prophet, professor of theatre, will direct the production.

Save the date(s) to see *As You Like It* in April in the Miller II Theatre in the Miller Performing Arts Center on the AU campus. There are three performances, April 6, 7, and 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets required.

theatre

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# SPOTLIGHT ON music

## Two Trumpets and Organ Recital

The Music Department presents Dr. Timothy Altman, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Dr. Larry Wells, Methodist University, and Laurel Buckwalter, Alfred University, in a recital for two trumpets and organ on Saturday, January 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Alfred, NY. Music will include solos, duos and trios from the Baroque period through the 20th century, with guest performance by Dr. Christopher Foster. This free concert is made possible through the David and Elizabeth Miller Performing Arts Fund.



*Timothy Altman*



*Larry Wells*

## *Choral Gems of the British Isles*

The Music Department welcomes Guest Choral Director, Boris VanDruff who will lead the University Chorus in a concert of music by British composers on Sunday, April 30 at 3:00 pm in the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, Alfred, NY. Mr. VanDruff who is an adjunct in voice and a professional tenor will lead the ensemble during Dr. Crosby's sabbatical.



*Boris VanDruff*

A native of Olean, NY, Boris Van Druff specializes in opera and musical theater. He completed his bachelor's degree at the State University of New York at Fredonia and his Master's in Vocal Performance at the University of Tennessee. Mr. VanDruff has performed with the Knoxville Opera as Gastone in *La Traviata*, Benvolio in *Romeo et Juliette*, as the four servants in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, and highlights from Bernstein's *Candide*. Mr. VanDruff's most recent engagement has been with the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco. He currently resides in Angelica, NY with his wife, Talia.

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## Student Soloists Featured in AU Orchestra "Gems of the Baroque"

On Friday, April 14 at 7:30 pm in the Miller Theater, the AU Orchestra will present an exquisite concert of music by Bach and Vivaldi. And, as has become a tradition, a number of our music students will have the opportunity to be featured as soloists. The concert will open featuring the entire violin section in Antonio Vivaldi's *Concerto in D minor*. Violinist Aaron Vit, a mechanical engineering major will solo in Vivaldi's ever popular "Spring" from the *Four Seasons*. The cello section, lead by principal Phillip Dzielski, an astrophysics major, will perform another of Vivaldi's works, the *Concerto for Two Cellos in G minor*. Jay Horwath, a Glass Engineering Science major, and his teacher, Christopher Foster will perform the *Concerto for Two Trumpets*, also by Vivaldi. Also featured will be Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5* with AU music minor flutist, Rosalyn Nardella, violinist, Lisa Lantz, and special guest, concert pianist Lucy Mauro. The concert is free and the public is cordially invited.





## Woodard recital: *The Ridiculous and the Sublime*

Percussionist Dustin Woodard will perform a solo recital in the Miller Theater on Saturday, March 18th at 7:30pm.

The recital will feature two extreme styles of percussion repertoire all written within the 20th century, both the ridiculous and the sublime.



One half of the recital will feature music that is gorgeously written to express the beauty of modern percussion ideas. The second half will focus on avant-garde music that expresses new age performance techniques. Mr. Woodard is currently an adjunct at Alfred University and Houghton College.

## Spotlight on Scott DeFranco-Norton, AU Class of 2014

Scott DeFranco-Norton graduated in 2014 with a B.S. in Biomedical Materials Engineering Science. An accomplished musician, Scott plays Tuba, Piano, French Horn, String Bass, Electric Bass, Carillon and while at Alfred, he was a member of the Orchestra, where he was featured as a soloist his senior year, and the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Carillon, AU Naturales, Alfred Dance Theatre. Scott is currently working as a Senior Operations Engineer at Stryker Orthopedics in Mahwah NJ., working on Hydroxylapatite

Synthesis and Plasma Spray machines for acetabular cups and femoral hip stems. He is engaged to fellow



*The AU Pep Band in 2012, with Scott DeFranco-Norton (far left), Alex Miranda, James Akers, Kathryn V Esham, PJ DiCesare, Michele Chisholm, David Snyder Jr., Katie Seery and Peter McClain.*

Pep Band President and 2017 Alfred University graduate Katie Weiss. Scott said he enjoys returning to Alfred to play in the music groups because he is able to see old friends, schoolmates and teachers who helped shape his Alfred experience. One of his favorite activities was learning the Carillon and “ringing the bells over all of Alfred when I wasn’t playing my tuba loud and proud!”

*One thing about Scott DeFranco-Norton....at his first game playing his tuba with the AU Pep Band, Peter McClain and I were amazed by his “pep” and “spirit” and decided then and*

*there, at his FIRST game that Scott DeFranco-Norton should be inducted into the AU Pep Band Hall of Fame, regardless of the fact that heretofore there is no such thing.*

*After his freshman year with the pep band, Scott sent me a Christmas card thanking me for the opportunity to play with the Pep Band and that, contrary to his high school experience as a “band geek,” here at Alfred University, he had become somewhat of a hero to all the guys on the football team and it really boosted his confidence and validated even more, his love for playing...*

– David Snyder

### AU Pep Band has PEP!

Did you know that the Alfred’s Pep Band began life as a Kazoo Band in 1999 by its co-founders, Peter McClain and Dave Snyder? Real instruments were added in 2000 as Dave became advisor and facilitator of the newly recognized AU student organization. The Pep Band has played at all but one home game ever since. Dr. Christopher Foster began running “Band Camp” a few years after he arrived on campus and has helped recruit and direct the band since Fall 2015. The Pep Band consists of current students and returning alumni.

## Spring Guest Artists Get Alfred University Dancing

*Mariah Maloney*

This spring the Alfred University Dance Department will host guest artist Mariah Maloney through the generosity of the Marlin Miller Dance Residency Program.

During her residency she will create an original dance work on twelve Alfred dance students to be performed in the AU Dance Theater Concert February 16 - 18. In addition, she will also teach five master classes many of which will be open to the Alfred larger community.

Originally from Homer, Alaska Maloney is now based in New York as Artistic Director of Mariah Maloney Dance. From 1995-2002 she performed, lectured and taught around the world as a featured soloist and ensemble dancer with the Trisha Brown Dance Company.

In 2003 she formed Mariah Maloney Dance. Since, the company has been invited to perform, teach and create new work throughout the United States, and in Europe, Asia and South America. In New York she is produced at several venues including La MaMa Experimental Theatre; The Kitchen; Judson Church; Danspace Project. Mariah Maloney Dance presented an evening length concert at Jacob's Pillow Inside/ Out.

Maloney serves as faculty in workshops for the Trisha Brown Dance Company located at Gibney Dance Center, City Center and Peridance Capezio Center and enjoys her role as international guest artist for Trisha Brown restaging projects and teaches in the guest artist series at the Mark Morris Dance Center.

Mariah is an Associate Professor at The College at Brockport, Department of Dance. Maloney earned a BFA from Purchase College and an MFA from Hollins/ADF.

Other guest artists coming this spring via the Marlin Miller residency program include Rose Beauchamp, Amy Smith, and Michelle Boulé.

## Sarah Hall Weaver, Alfred University Class of 2007



Sarah Hall Weaver graduated from Alfred University from the B.A.F.A. program (now IARTS) with a dance minor in 2007. She studied dance through additional programs at Skidmore College and attended the American Dance Festival at Duke University. Hall Weaver held the title of Assistant Director of the National Museum of Dance for over five years. While there she curated dozens of dance and fine art exhibitions, oversaw educational programming, welcomed special events and residencies, and worked closely with many of the most recognized American dance companies and institutions still in operation. She is currently working as a Digital Content Strategist in Bennington, Vermont and writes performing arts reviews on dance, theatre, and live music performances for the New York Theatre Guide.

## AU Dance Theater Lights Up Miller

On February 16th, 17th, and 18th the lights will be up in Miller Theater for the Annual AU Dance Theater Concert.

This year's concert features five student choreographers and over thirty student performers. Student choreographers include Kia Barrow, Corrine Chase, Nazim Kourgli, Alene Houghton and Marc Widerman. Choreographers are chosen through an adjudication process run by a faculty panel. Accepted choreographers hold an audition to cast performers for their work. Choreographers and performers work throughout the fall and into the spring semester to create their works. In addition to going through the adjudication process, each student choreographer has had at least two semesters of Dance Composition.

There are also two faculty works created by co-artistic directors D. Chase Angier and Colleen Culley. In addition, the Marlin Miller guest artist Mariah Maloney will be setting a new choreographic work on twelve AU Dance students. Maloney comes in from New York City to spend a week with our students and more information in her is available in the Guest Artist column.

Students representing the schools of Art and Design, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Professional Studies will be performing in this year's concert.

## Performing Arts Spring Calendar 2016

### JANUARY

- 21 **Two Trumpets and Organ Recital** - features guest artists Timothy Altman, Larry Wells and Laurel Buckwalter. Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 7:30 pm

### FEBRUARY

- 16-18 **AU Dance Theater** features original choreography and performances by AU students and the Marlin Miller Guest Artist. Tickets Required. Miller Theater, 8 pm \*\*

### MARCH

- 18 **The Ridiculous and the Sublime.** Percussionist Dustin Woodard will perform a solo recital of percussion works both electronic and acoustic. Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm

### APRIL

- 6-8 **As You Like It!** by William Shakespeare. In this romantic comedy by the Bard, new hope, new life and much love are found in the Forest of Arden. Tickets required. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm
- 9 **Student Recital** will feature instrumentalists. Free admission. Miller Theater, 3 pm
- 14 **Gems of the Baroque.** A showcase of AU student soloists performing music of Bach and Vivaldi with the AU Orchestra. Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm
- 21 **Jazz Band.** Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm
- 28 **Symphonic Band.** Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm
- 29 **Student Recital** will feature vocalists. Free admission. Howell Hall, 3 pm
- 30 **Choral Spring Concert.** The AU Chorus will present a program of varied works. Free admission. Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 3 pm



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Artistic Director at [MostArts@alfred.edu](mailto:MostArts@alfred.edu).

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## Chung returns for MostArts 2017

Derek Chung returns to the Miller Theater stage as the Grand Prize winner of the 2016 Young Pianist

Competition. He will perform Franz Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Festival Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Yval Zaliouk. In addition, Grammy award winner, Angelin Chang will perform the Shostakovich Concerto for Piano, Trumpet and Strings with soloist Bruno Lourensetto, a native of Brazil.

Dynamic German-born pianist, Andreas Klein will return to perform the ever popular Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto, and the beautiful

Bolivian clarinetist Camila Barrientos Ossio will be our featured soloist at the closing Gala Concert.



In addition to the Evening Concert Series, Young Pianist Competition, Sound Bites Chamber Music Series, a number of daily workshops will be available: Master Gardener, En Plain Air, Clay and Creative Writing. Visit our website for more information.

AND, if you are interested in volunteering, we need help in a variety of ways. Please contact Lisa Lantz at [MostArts.alfred.edu](http://MostArts.alfred.edu).

**Tickets available online at [MostArts.alfred.edu](http://MostArts.alfred.edu)**