

Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State

Classical Music Project
Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

In the first season of its second and last three-year cycle, the Classical Music Project (CMP) funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation continued its drive to engage Penn State students with classical music programs and artists. This report includes a summary of CMP residencies and events for the fall 2014 semester.

Student Engagement Activities

Classical Coffeehouse: 9/30/14

The Classical Coffeehouse series continued in the fall semester with one event, with future plans for two events in spring 2015. The fall's coffeehouse featured the Takacs Quartet presented in partnership with the Penn State Alumni Association with support from the Blue & White Society and the Council of LionHearts. The Classical Coffeehouse was held in the Hintz Family Alumni Center's Robb Hall. Complimentary refreshments and Classical Coffeehouse branded mugs were provided for attendees.

On the evening of September 30th, the Takacs Quartet performed various pieces, talked about the music and their experiences as artists, in addition to answering audience questions. There were 97 in attendance including students, faculty, staff and community members.

An ID swipe system was used to gather information on those students who attended the events and feedback surveys were sent to those who swiped their IDs. The students surveyed represented both graduate and undergraduate students. A majority of respondents indicated they would attend another Classical Coffeehouse; comments included:

- "Hearing wonderful music in a perfect environment!"
- "Experiencing the beauty of classical music live... something I have never had the privilege to do before."
- "The possibility to relax and learn something new after an exhausting day."

Penn State Campus Project

On October 1, the Takacs String Quartet traveled to the Penn State Altoona campus and to spend a day of residency and concert—the first in the 2014-15 season.

The residency began with an event entitled "But I Want To Dream" held in the Misciagna Family Center Titelman Study.

The Altoona residency culminated in an evening performance held in the Edith Davis Eve Chapel on the Altoona Campus. The event was free but tickets were required and all were distributed and a waiting list was created. The Takacs performed to a full house of 130 audience members. A reception was held followed the concert, giving audience members an opportunity to speak with the musicians.

Fall Semester Recap

Takacs String Quartet

- September 30: The Takacs String Quartet began residency events with the Classical Coffeehouse on Tuesday, September 30th, in Robb Hall of the Hintz Family Alumni Center. Attendance: 97
- October 1: The Quartet participated in a strings master class in the Esber Recital Hall. Attendance: 39
- October 1: The Quartet delivered its main concert on Wednesday, October 1, in Schwab Auditorium. Their performance included Haydn's Opus 64, No. 3, Janacek's Opus 2, and Debussy's String Quartet. Attendance: 301
- October 2: The Quartet traveled to the Penn State Altoona to participate in residency activities and a concert performance.

Tafelmusik

- November 4: Alison MacKay, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra bassist and creator of *The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres*, engaged with Penn State Schreyer Honors College students during a dinner that gives the scholars an opportunity to talk about the project and ask questions. Attendance: 10
- November 4: The public was invited to attend discussion, featuring Tafelmusik bassist Alison Mackay and Penn State Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics senior lecturer Chris Palma, about Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra's *The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres*. Mackay discussed the project's development and imagery, and shared musical excerpts from the project. Palma put the project into historical context and compared the scientific achievements of Galileo's time with today's accomplishments. This was an excellent opportunity to cultivate relationships with the faculty in the Astronomy department in the College of Science. Attendance: 18
- November 5: Alison Mackay engaged in an informal conversation with student members of Penn State's Committee for Early Modern Studies. Topics for the one-hour conversation include Tafelmusik's *The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres* and other works. Attendance: 2
- November 5: Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra oboist John Abberger worked with Penn State School of Music oboe students. Attendance: 11
- November 5: Jeanne Lamon, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra music director, spoke to students in a Survey on Music History course, lead by School of Music Professor, Marica Tacconi. Attendance: 64
- November 5: Violinist Julia Wedman worked with Penn State School of Music strings students. Attendance: 26

- November 5: Selected Penn State School of Music students are invited to observe Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra rehearse for its public performance of *The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres*. Attendance: 31
- At 7:30 on November 5, Tafelmusik performed the program, *The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres* to culminate all residency activities. Attendance: 632

Moscow State Symphony Orchestra

- November 11: The public was invited to observe a master class featuring cellist Joshua Roman. Attendance: 12
- At 7:30 on November 11, the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, featuring cellist Joshua Roman, and conductor Pavel Kogan, performed a program of Ballet music from Faust, Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33, and Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. Attendance: 845

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center featuring Composer, Sebastian Currier

This visit featured music by Mozart and includes Sebastian Currier's *Parallel Worlds*, a 2013 work for flute, two violins, viola, and cello co-commissioned by the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State through its membership in the national classical music-presenter consortium Music Accord.

- November 19: The public was invited to observe as Paul Barsom, associate professor of composition, hosted a 90-minute seminar, featuring composer Sebastian Currier, for Penn State School of Music composition students. Attendance: 12
- November 20: Sebastian Currier engaged in an informal conversation with classical music student ambassadors. Attendance: 5
- November 20: The public was invited to observe as Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center cellist Mihai Marica lead a master class for Penn State School of Music cello students. Attendance: 16
- November 20: The public was invited to observe as Paul Neubauer, violist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, leads Penn State School of Music viola students in a master class. Attendance: 17
- November 20: Penn State School of Music faculty members Naomi Seidman, assistant professor of flute, and Christopher Guzman, assistant professor of piano, performed Sebastian Currier's *Variations on Time and Time Again* in a session for flute, piano, and composition students. Attendance: 25
- November 20: Composer Sebastian Currier visited a Penn State Philharmonic class led by Gerardo Edelstein, director of orchestral studies at Penn State. Attendance: 30
- November 20: The public concert a program of three Mozart pieces that were written in the 1780s: Quartet in A Major, K. 298, for flute, violin, viola, and cello; Duo No. 2 in B-flat Major, K. 424, for violin and viola; and Quintet in A Major, K. 581, for clarinet, two violins, viola, and cello. Attendance: 366

- November 21: The public was invited to observe as Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center flutist Tara Helen O'Connor lead a master class for Penn State School of Music flute students. Attendance: 15
- November 21: The public was invited to observe as David Shifrin, clarinetist for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, lead a master class for Penn State School of Music clarinet students. Attendance: 15
- November 21: The public was invited to observe as Ani Kavafian, violinist for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, lead Penn State School of Music violin students in a master class. Attendance: 15

Administrative

Fall 2014 brought a change to the CMP project with the departure of its administrative coordinator. With discussion and investigation, the Center for the Performing Arts has partnered with Penn State's Office of Student Affairs to create a position specifically geared toward engaging Penn State students. Once filled, the Student Engagement Manager will coordinate efforts related to the CMP as well as other student engagement initiatives with artists and programs the CPA presents.