
Honors Luncheon Choral Ensemble

Thanks and kudos to the collegiates who sang the “Mu Phi Grace” at the Honors Luncheon on Friday. Ensemble director Kurt-Alexander Zeller commented, “I think it is highly appropriate that our youngest members are honoring our most experienced members with their performance at the Honors Luncheon.”

Soprano

Claire Broyles, *Alpha Zeta*
Audrey Dornbusch, *Delta Pi*
Michelle Hennessy, *Phi Mu*
Rachel Walker, *Lambda*

Alto

Nichole Roles, *Alpha Zeta*
Laurel Stinson, *Lambda*
Melanie Wade, *Lambda*

Tenor

A.J. Coppola, *Lambda*
Christopher Smith, *Gamma Eta*

Bass

Will Gunn, *Lambda*
Martin Hardin, *Delta Psi*
Ryan Semple, *Alpha Zeta*
Clint Williams, *Zeta Beta*

Thoughts from the Collegiate/Alumni Workshop

Alumni and collegiate members of Mu Phi Epsilon had an opportunity to come together after Thursday’s lunch and share their knowledge and ideas regarding significant topics that may be hindering the fraternity’s growth. Increasing the number of male members and bridging the gap between the alumni and collegiate members were just a couple of topics discussed.

The topic that seemed to raise a lot of questions and discussion was that of raising money for the fraternity and aiding in its quest of debt relief. Many alumni chapters agree that they are going well above and beyond the call of duty for the fraternity and it is time for the collegiate chapters to do the same. Ideas included raising the collegiate dues and/or using the Harmony Fund as a debt relief resource. Once our debt is paid off, it could become an endowment used solely for fraternity operations. As of right now, alumni chapters are contributing approximately 70% and collegiate chapters only 30%. Many agreed that collegiate members would willingly endure a financial increase to further improve the fraternity’s financial matters.

by Vania Addo, *Gamma Gamma*

Opera Theatre of Saint Louis Young Artist Programs

Those in attendance proclaimed this session an overwhelming success. The talk concluded after an extensive Q&A session, only to be followed by a line of enthusiasts who wished to acquire additional information and personally express gratitude for the quality presentation. This reporter felt that the presenters had performed a mind meld, for this type of program is my long-term goal.

Atlanta Alumni music delegate Arietha Lockhart was impressed with the outreach program, especially with the training program in high schools, probably a first exposure to opera for most of the students. She stated the importance of Erie Mills’s diction process. Vocal performance major Angélique Peretta of the University of North Florida, whose induction into *Delta Eta* is scheduled for Saturday, found the statistics about music careers very informative. She wants to learn more about funding for projects of this type. Angélique currently teaches piano lessons and feels it essential to “pay back” by preparing the young for the future of music.

Judy Goff noted the statistics on auditioners and the actual number of candidates accepted into training companies. The quote that most impressed her was, “If music is your passion, pursue it; go get the degree and don’t worry about whether you’ll get paid on the other end. It doesn’t mean you are going to be a star, but if you like it, do it!”

by LaVerne M. McCoy, *Gamma Sigma*

Program Book Updates

North Central Province: Add alumni business delegate Teresa Rowe, Minneapolis/St. Paul.
Personal Page to the Chair is Bethanie Ernst, *Alpha Mu* (spelling correction).

Share Your Convention Photos Online

Log on to Shutterfly at <https://www.shutterfly.com/signin/viewSignin.sfly?fid=084dc8474b3f1b7d749ad1f587b3cc4b> and use email “muphi@rcn.com” and password “convention.” The album name is 2008 Jax Convention. Let’s load that album with lots of great photos.

Intriguing Clinic on Copland Music

At conventions, it is not only important to visit with new friends, but to take new knowledge and apply it to our musical life. Many of our members are skilled in giving clinics and workshops, such as Signe Zale, who gave an amazing presentation and performance of Aaron Copland's *Piano Variations*. The music itself is not always that interesting when you listen to it for the first time, but Zale explained the piece in terms of rhythm, harmony, and piano technique that made it very interesting to listen to.

As a pianist, I was very excited to hear some truly American piano music. However, after the first excerpts were played, I was not entirely sure how the entire piece would sound. But when she did play the piece in its entirety, I was sitting on the edge of my seat listening to the four-tone theme, the rhythmic vitality, and the jazz-like themes that appear throughout the piece.

The presentation also had quotes that not only apply to rhythm in Copland's music, but rhythmic material in all music. Copland wrote in his book, "...We get the real rhythm only when we stress the notes according to the musical sense of the phrase." He also mentioned, "...All music has a meaning behind the notes and that meaning constitutes what the piece is about."

The session not only gave insight into Copland's music, but also emphasized the artistry in the music. It explained how "the meaning behind the notes" is much more important than the notes themselves; even the most atonal piece can have artistic merit and expression. This piece may not be something that would be played at a dinner party, but it is certainly a masterpiece among American contemporary music.

By Will Gunn, *Lambda*

Last Chance!

Vendors and Silent Auction Auction Closes Saturday Afternoon

Saturday is the last day to stock up on Mu Phi gear and take home something special from the silent auction. Get thee to the St. John's Room! Precise silent auction closing time will be posted and/or announced.

DOTs: Daily Observations from a First Timer–Day 3

- The violet is by far the best flower...ever.
- Will this rain ever stop?
- I hope I'm as cool as these wonderful honorees when I've been a Mu Phi for over 50 years!
- Note to self: Apply for Mu Phi Foundation scholarships.
- I love the piano duo's wardrobe, especially the sparkles!
- Life lesson for the day: be flexible.
- Oprah should put *World of Women in Classical Music* in her Book Club.
- Ms. Arietha, where can I get a doll like that?
- With all these spectacular performances and speakers, I don't want to leave. But I can't wait to tell my chapter all the great happenings at the Mu Phi Epsilon International Convention!
- What an honor and privilege it has been serving the Fraternity in my daily observations as I experienced this for the first time.

This is DOT, signing off and out.

Jennifer Muse, *Mu Phi*

It's Never Too Late

Lovely ladies Lenora Brown and Gaye England gave us a toe-tapping performance of four-handed dances Friday morning, despite their unfortunate travel delays and complete lack of sleep. Lenora and Gaye gave us the encouraging message that no matter how "mature" you might be (we would never use the word "old"), you can still keep performing.

They lamented the fact that many performance students get their degree and then never put it to use. The key, Lenora Brown says, is that "you must make your own performance opportunities." With some effort on your part, you can keep your schedule busy with competitions, organization recitals, benefit concerts, and working with grants and scholarships. Though this might seem a daunting task, any musician who wants to keep up with performances can accomplish it.

"If you believed that it was impossible to fail, what would you attempt to achieve?" says Lenora. Just because you're a seasoned musician, it doesn't mean that you have to give up dreams of great performances.

by Anne Marxhausen, *Mu Gamma*