2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS & NEWS

Faculty
- Congrats to professors Jonathan Crow (New Orford String Quartet, Classical Album of the Year: Chamber), Mike Murley (with Metalwood, Jazz Album of the Year: Group) and Christos Hatzis (composer of Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation, Classical Album of the Year: Large Ensemble) on their 2017 JUNO award wins!
- In May Prof Robin Elliott (PhD 1990, MA Music 1981) coordinated a three day conference for Canada 150 titled Music and Belonging in conjunction with the Canadian University Music Society, the Canadian Society for Traditional Music, the Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres, and the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Canada Branch. More info is at uoftmusicicm.ca/about/canada150music/
- Congratulations to Professor Emeritus Russell Hartenberger on receiving the 2017 Leonardo da Vinci World Award of Arts “for his achievements as a scholarly writer, as well as an extraordinarily talented percussionist, and for his commitment to teaching and inspiring new generations of young musicians and scholars”!
- At the end of June 2017, Associate Professor John Kruspe (BMus 1968) and Professor Lee Bartel retired. John Kruspe began teaching at the Faculty in 1971 and was appointed in 1973. Lee Bartel started in 1988 and most recently was Founding Director of the Music and Health Research Collaboratory in 2012. Musicology Prof Mary Ann Parker retired in December 2017. She joined the Faculty in 1982.
- On July 1, the Faculty welcomed new Head Librarian Jan Guise. Jan comes to us from the University of Manitoba where she was Head Librarian of the Gramatté Music Library for 10 years. She has held a number of key leadership roles with the Canadian Association of Music Libraries, including President for several years. Many thanks to James Mason who was Acting Head Librarian for the previous year.
- In late September, Everlasting Light by Prof Christos Hatzis was performed by Spanish percussionist Conrado Moya and the Coral de Bilbao under the direction of Enrique Azurza at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain and the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish civil war.
- Everyone at UofT Opera was saddened to hear of the passing of Tina Orton in late July. Tina was the Opera School's administrator from 1989 until her retirement in 2004 (and previously worked with the NYOC). In her retirement, Tina was a volunteer at the Faculty, receiving a 2013 UofT Arbor Award for volunteering. An endowed scholarship going to an opera diploma student and orchestral student was created in her name.
- In early August longtime piano instructor Boris Lysenko passed away. Boris Lysenko's piano studies began in his early youth at the Leningrad/St. Petersburg Conservatory and Berlin Hochschule für Musik, where he studied with Richard Rössler. He obtained his doctorate in piano from the Leningrad Conservatory, where he studied with Natan Perelman. Lysenko taught at the Conservatory for twenty years, becoming head of its piano department and vice-president. He immigrated to Canada in 1980 and soon began teaching for UofT Faculty of Music and the Royal Conservatory of Music. Our sympathies and condolences to his family, many students, and respected colleagues.
- In July we welcomed new academic staff: percussionist Associate Professor Aiyun Huang (BMusPerf 1995), music theorist Assistant Professor Daphne Tan, and Sebastian Bisciglia, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Music Theory and Instructional Technology.
- Congratulations to Associate Professor and Resident Stage Director Michael Patrick Albanon receiving a Ruby Award from Opera Canada on October 30.
- This past year the Faculty of Music, led by Professor Bina John (PhD 2002, MMus 1994) and Prof Nasim Niknafs, partnered with the Regent Park School of Music (with Executive Director Richard Marsella (MMus 2005, BMus 2003)) and Turning Point Youth Services in a groundbreaking research project examining the role of music education as a rehabilitative tool for youth in open custody and open detention.
- At June Convocation the UofT and the Faculty of Music awarded Inuk musician Susan Aglukark with an honorary degree and in November conductor and soprano Barbara Hannigan (MMus 1999, BMusPerf 1993) and long-time voice instructor Mary Morrison received honorary degrees.
- This past fall Professor Michael Thaut, Director, Music and Health Research Collaboratory (MaHRC) and Director, Music and Health Sciences Graduate Programs, was named a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Music, Neuroscience and Health.
- Prof Larysa Kuzmenko (BMus 1979) wrote The Golden Harvest to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada and it saw many performances in 2017 including with The Orpheus Choir and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.
- Prof Hilary Apfelstadt (BMus 1974) wrote I Didn’t Want It To Be Boring, a biography of composer Ruth Watson Henderson, published by Prism Publishers in December 2017.
- The Cecilia String Quartet (including grads violinist Min-Jeong Koh (DMA 2014, BMusPerf 2007), Sara Nematallah (MA Music 2013, BMusPerf 2006) and violist Caitlin Boyle (DMA 2015)) announced that the 2017-18 season will be their last. CSQ has been the James D. Stewart Quartet-in-Residence at the Faculty of Music.
- CBC Music included The Path to Paradise by The Trinity Choir and early music Prof Daniel Taylor as one of their top 10 favourite Canadian classical albums of 2017.
- For its 25th anniversary the Gryphon Trio released The End of Flowers on January 19 on Analekta Records, featuring Ravel’s Piano Trio in A Minor and Rebecca Clarke’s Piano Trio.
- On October 7, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra presented the world premiere of commissioned work Adizokan by composition Prof Eliot Britton. Adizokan is “a new genre-bending creation that explores Indigenous connections to ancestral origins using a potent mix of dance, video, electro-acoustic, and orchestra”.

Students
- To recognize students who have made outstanding extra-curricular contributions to UofT, in April 2017 Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Awards were given to music students Alessia Disimino (concertmaster of the Toronto Community Orchestra,
a volunteer group that performs in assisted living homes), Helen Geng (executive member of the Faculty of Music Undergraduate Association, and personnel manager of the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra), Ann-Merrie Leung (Sports Director of the Faculty of Music Undergraduate Association, and she played on every faculty team), Nila Rajagopal (VP of Student Life at the Faculty of Music Undergraduate Association, and an orientation executive), and Danielle Sun (VP Communications of the Faculty of Music Undergraduate Association, and an orientation executive).

- Last summer Opera Master’s student baritone Andrew Adridge (BMusPerf 2016) won the Aria Prize and was co-winner of First Prize at the George Shirley Vocal Competition in Ann Arbor, Michigan.


- In November at the Canadian Opera Company Centre Stage Competition, Opera Master’s student mezzo Simona Genga won First Prize and Audience Favourite and Opera Master’s student baritone Joel Allison won Second Prize.

- Congrats to Master’s Voice student Daniel Robinson (BMusPerf 2016) who, in 2017, coordinated The Sounds of Silence, bringing together 15 poets, 15 UofT composers, and 15 UofT singers in a series of concerts. In an effort to increase diverse representation in Canadian art song, he produced 15 new performance pieces that tell the story of a diverse Canadian cultural identity; the poets are all members of Indigenous, immigrant, racialized, and LGBTQO communities.

- The UofT Jazz Orchestra released Sweet Ruby Suite, the music of Kenny Wheeler featuring Norma Winstone and Dave Liebman in 2017. Also from Jazz Studies, the UofT 12tet released Trillium Falls.

- The MacMillan Singers with conductor Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt (BMus 1974) celebrated the release of their official Canadian Music Centre Rediscs recording Dawn of Night featuring the works of Stephen Chapman in September 2017.

- Following a US tour in fall 2017, in January 2018 ethnomusicology PhD candidate Sepideh Raissadat (MA Music 2012) was the Ethnomusicology Visiting Artist at the School of Music of the University of Washington.

- In November the UofT Jazz Orchestra performed as the “house band” at the Toronto Arts Foundation’s Mayor’s Gala for the Arts with Mayor John Tory.

- Bass Day in October was a success with a World Record Attempt on Philosopher’s Walk for the most bassists ever to play “The Elephant” from Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns. Joining the attempt were alumna James Creeggan of Barenaked Ladies and George Koller of The Shuffle Demons.

- Congratulations to our first ever PhD in Music and Health Sciences graduate, Cheryl Jones. Her dissertation is titled Exploring Music-based Cognitive Rehabilitation Following Acquired Brain Injury: A Randomized Control Trial Comparing Attention Process Training and Musical Attention Control Training.

**Alumni**

- A GRAMMY! Congratulations to Barbara Hannigan (MMus 1999, BMusPerf 1993) for her Grammy win for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album - Crazy Girl Crazy - Music By Gershwin, Berg & Berio with Orchestra Ludwig!

- In 2016 Professor Joseph Macerollo (MA Music 1969, BMus 1965) and Frances Macerollo (Licentiate Diploma 1969) generously endowed a new scholarship: the Joseph and Frances Macerollo Accordion Scholarship. In the 17-18 year Michael Bridge was the inaugural recipient. Thank you and congratulations all!

- Thank you to Neville Austin (MA Music 1984, BMus 1983) and his brother Zuben Austin for endowing a new piano scholarship for graduate students in honour of their parents, Dina and Hosie Austin.

- Following a UK performance tour last April and May 2017, in the fall Daniel Tones (MMus 2002) started a full-time position at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey BC where he teaches percussion and music history.

- Congratulations to soprano and alumna Alexandra Smither (BMusPerf 2014) with pianist Pierre-André Doucet on winning the 40th Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition 2017 (E-Gré) in voice, as well as the City of Brandon Prize for the best performance of this year’s commissioned piece Malfunktionleider by Nicole Lizeć. Second place went to soprano Maeye Palmer (MMus 2017, BMusPerf 2015). Also participating in the finals was soprano Adanya Dunn (MMus 2014, BMusPerf 2012).

- Alexandra Smither and Adanya Dunn were joined by Roydon Tse (MMus 2015) and Rashaan Allwood (BMusPerf 2016) on the CBC’s 2017 Classical Music 30 Under 30 list.

- Wesley R. Warren (BMus 1979) celebrated 30 years as Organist and Choirmaster at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Ottawa in August. He maintains an active performing career, including organ recitals last fall in London, UK. He continues to teach at Carleton University and performs with the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

- Joel Steve Gokool (BMusPerf 1997) performed in the opera Thumbprint by composer Kamala Sankaram with LA Opera in June 2017.

- Congrats to tenor Cameron Shahbazi (BMusPerf 2015) who won top prize for his category and also the top prize awarded by Opera Grand Avignon in France this fall.


- Helen Geng (BMus 2017) won the 2017 Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Association Undergraduate University Level Essay Competition with “Multicultural Repertoire in Concert Band”.

- Susan Korstanje (MA Music 1987) was appointed conductor of the Lakehead University Vocal Ensemble starting in September 2017.

- Congratulations to Leslie Fagan (BMusPerf 1987), Voice Prof at WLU Music, on receiving the Order of Ontario.

- Alvice Migotto (BMusPerf 1990), Director of Fare Arte in Brazil, was selected by the Canadian Consulate General in São Paulo as main organizer for Canada 150 celebrations in Brazil. Alvice has composed and produced a Brazilian Amazon exhibition’s sound installations, including a 32 channel spatial installation in which the sounds of the Amazon were recreated based on existing field recordings or reconstructed from memory and imagination using sophisticated synthesis and sound simulation technologies. The exhibition is being prepared for its next destination: South Africa.
• Receiving high praise, Christopher Cameron (OpDip 1979) published Dr. Bartolo’s Umbrella and Other Tales From My Surprising Operatic Life in April with Seraphim Editions.

• In 2017 guitarist Tariq Harb (DMA 2014) released Copla, featuring Spanish composers, and will celebrate his Carnegie Hall debut in March 2018.

• Composer Tawnie Olson (DMus 2009) was awarded an OPERA America Discovery Grant to develop a new work with re:Naissance Opera and a Canada Council for the Arts Professional Development Grant to study field recording at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

• Last April baritone Philip Kalmanovitch (OpDip 2009) was a finalist in the 20th annual Lotte Lenya Competition.

• Last year singer-songwriter Belinda Corporz (BMusPerf 2014) released her debut EP, All I Am, featuring a number of fellow alumni.

• Our grads not only write music, they write novels too: for your Canadian historical fiction reading, check out Promises to Keep from Genevieve Graham (BMusPerf 1986), published last April.

• Congrats to jazz singer Alison Young (BMusPerf 2011), Amanda Tosoff (MA Music 2014), Barbra Lica (BMusPerf 2010), Karl Schwonik (MMus 2012), Max Roach (BMusPerf 2009), Ernesto Cervini (BMusPerf 2003), Chris Donnelly (MMus 2007, BMusPerf 2005), Dan Fortin (BMusPerf 2007), and Tara Kannangara (BMusPerf 2013).

• In June 2018, professional conductor Michael Vincent (DMA 2013) led the change of digital news org Musical Toronto to Ludwig Van, creating Ludwig Van Toronto and Ludwig Van Montreal.

• In 2017, Prof Bruce Pennycook (MMus 1974, BMus 1973) was appointed Chair of the Department of Arts and Entertainment Technologies in the School of Design and Creative Technologies, The College of Fine Arts at UT-Austin.

• Composer Scott Christian (BMus 2008) had the premiere of his new musical A Misfortune at Charlottetown Festival in PEI in September.

• In 2018 Lily Ling (BMusPerf 2009) is Associate Music Director/Conductor for the 2nd US touring production of the musical Hamilton.

• In September composer and pianist Frank Horvat (BMus 1997) had an epic week releasing four full-length new albums featuring a number of alumni guest performers: Me to We (chamber), The Current Agenda (electro-chamber) You Haven’t Been (solo piano), and Love in 6 Stages (avant-ambient pop). In November, Frank was the inaugural winner of the Ontario Arts Foundation $5,000 Kathleen McMorrow Music Award, recognizing the composition and presentation of contemporary classical music by Ontario
composers, for The Thailand HRDs, a 35 movement string quartet commissioned by Protection International, a human rights NGO.

- Look out for soprano Clarisse Tonigussi (MMus 2017, BMusPerf 2015): she founded the Canadian Women Composers Project that celebrates the music of women in Canada. The project brings to light an array of Canadian women composers through a one-hour recital of vocal music. Spanning an entire year from 2017 to 2018, the project will visit every Canadian province and territory.

- The CBC asked if Britta Johnson (BMusPerf 2014) is Canada’s Stephen Sondheim following rave reviews for Life After in September, produced by Canadian Stage, The Musical Stage Company & Yonge Street Theatricals.

- Both of Tapestry Opera’s 17-18 season main stage operas are composed by grads: Forbidden by Afarin Mansouri (MMus 2010) & The Overcoat by James Rolfe (MMus 1984, BMus 1983).

- Congrats to pianist Stephanie Chua (MMus 2006) on her Centrediscs release of True North with violinist Véronique Mathieu, featuring all Canadian music including works by grads Brian Harman (BMus 2004), Alice Ping Yee Ho (MMus 1984), Maria Molinari (BMus 1992), and Healey Willan (DMus 1920).

- Jazz pianist and composer Teri Parker (BMusPerf 2008) and her band the Teri Parker Quartet released In the Past this fall.

- Congratulations to Mount Allison Dean of Arts Dr. Elizabeth Wells (BMus 1988) who received the 2017 American Musicological Society Teaching Award.

- Congrats to composer Dinuk Wijeratne (DMA 2017) on winning the prestigious $25,000 2017 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Arts Award.

- Our thoughts are with family and friends of David Gerry (MMus 1997, BMusPerf 1984), inspiring teacher and flutist, who was most recently appointed assistant professor of music education at McMaster’s School of the Arts. Following a brief battle with cancer, David passed away in early December.


- Congratulations to Dr. Elaine Keillor (DMus 1976) for her amazing generosity and Carleton University for establishing the Helmut Kallmann Chair for Music in Canada! The foremost scholar of Canadian music history, Dr. Helmut Kallmann is also a UofT Music grad, BMus 1949.

- Toronto’s NOW Magazine noted musicians to watch (or should it be listen?) for in 2018: Bekah Simms (MMus 2015) and Christopher Willes (BMusPerf 2008).


- Canadian premieres of two Holocaust-themed operas by Jake Heggie, Another Sunrise and Farewell, Auschwitz, were performed at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto in February and were produced by Electric Bond Opera Ensemble, founded by Sara Schabas (BMusPerf 2012).

- Composer Dr. Fuhong Shi (DMA 2010) was profiled in the Beijing Morning Newspaper in January for her leadership at Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and for premieres of works in Italy in March and in Toronto for the Canadian premiere of her work Concentric Circles with the Esprit Orchestra in April 2018.

- Congrats to Payadora Tango Ensemble on the release of their new recording Volando, featuring alumni violinist Rebekah Wolkstein (DMA 2013), accordionist Branko Dzinovic (DMA 2018), and bassist Joseph Phillips (BMusPerf 2000).

- In January 2018 mezzo Melissa Peiou (MMus 2014) won the Met Opera Competition in the Buffalo/Toronto District Region.

- We are proud of our alumni and faculty members for their 2018 JUNO Awards nominations:

Adult Contemporary Album of the Year: Rooted – Alysha Brilla features Marie Goudy (MMus 2017, BMusPerf 2012) on trumpet and Alison Young (BMusPerf 2011) on sax

Contemporary Roots Album: The Weather Station – The Weather Station with bassist Ben Whiteley (BMus2010)

Alternative Album of the Year: Wide Open by Weaves with drummer Spencer Cole (BMusPerf 2008) and Retrieviation – Tanya Tagaq features the Element Choir conducted by jazz voice instructor Christine Duncan

Classical Album of the Year: Solo or Chamber Ensemble: Chamber Works by Szymon Laks - Arc Ensemble (recording includes grads Marie Berard (ArtDip 1983), Steven Dann (BMusPerf 1977), Erika Raun (BMusPerf 1993), Dianne Werner (BMusPerf 1977), and Sarah Jeffrey (BMusPerf 1998))

Classical Album of the Year: Vocal or Choral: Crazy Girl Crazy – Barbara Hannigan (MMus 1999, BMusPerf 1993), The Tree of Life – Prof Daniel Taylor and the Trinity Choir

Classical Composition of the Year: Cœur a Cœur - Alice Ping Yee Ho (MMus 1984), The Shaman – Vincent Ho (MMus 2000), Breathe - James Rolfe (MMus 1984, BMus 1983), Phi, Caelestis– Andrew Staniland (DMus 2006, MMus 2002)

Faculty of Music update

- A café opened in the Edward Johnson Building lobby in September! Get your caffeine, lunch, and snack fixes the next time you are here.

- New Electroacoustic studio: We received federal funds to renovate the studio and plan to complete work in 2018.

- We’re thrilled to announce that ticketed concerts at the Faculty of Music are now FREE for ALL University of Toronto students.

- In 2018 the Faculty of Music celebrates its 100th year. We look forward to sharing our plans with you!

- We are pleased to share all this news but this is an overview and we apologize to anyone whose achievements we have missed. Stay in touch: music.alumni@utoronto.ca and 416-946-3580 or via our Facebook page UofTFacultyofMusicAlumni or Twitter @UofTMusicAlumni.