

# UMBC DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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# Monthly Newsletter

Through individual attention from extraordinary faculty, a supportive community, and real-world experience, we develop forward thinking musical citizens who make a positive impact in their communities and the world.

**Upcoming Audition Dates** 

January (Priority Consideration for Departmental and Linehan Scholarships)
Friday January 23, 2026 (vocalists only)
Saturday January 24, 2026 (instrumentalists only)
Audition Applications Due January 4, 2026







### **Upcoming Concerts**



11/9 **Inscape Chamber Orchestra:** Echoes of Paradise, 7:00PM

11/16 UMBC Wind Ensemble presents: fire, 5:00PM

11/19, UMBC Chamber Players, 7:30PM

11/21, **UMBC Gamelan,** 5:00PM

11/21, U.S. Army Field Band Saxophone Quartet, 7:30PM

11/22, UMBC Jazz in Concert, 3:00PM

11/23, UMBC Percussion Ensemble, 1:00PM

11/23, UMBC Camerata: Through Perspectives INjustice, 7:00PM

Learn more and get tickets at music.umbc.edu/events

## LIVEWIRE 15: Blazing Trails Recap!



Our 15th annual LIVEWIRE festival was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came and supported! RUCKUS was thrilled to present two concerts and support Ensemble Bravura's spectacular performance. Thursday night opened the festival with a wonderful talk on pioneers and trail blazing in the music world by guest composer Zosha Di Castri. Ruckus presented two of her works along side trail blazers Tania Leon, Joan Tower, Sofia Gubaidalina, and George Lewis. Read our review: <a href="https://washingtonclassicalreview.com/2025/10/17/umbcs-livewire-15-festival-pays-tribute-to-pioneering-women-composers/">https://washingtonclassicalreview.com/2025/10/17/umbcs-livewire-15-festival-pays-tribute-to-pioneering-women-composers/</a>

Ruckus returned to the stage to present Julius Eastman's *Femenine* - a concert length piece in the minimalist tradition. It was exciting to be able to present this composer's work, a trailblazer in his too short career. Saturday afternoon found RUCKUS making a salad and serving it to their audience in the true fluxus tradition of composer Alison Knowles (Proposition #2: Make a Salad). Ensemble Bravura continued the theme of trailblazing with another magnificent work by Joan Tower alongside a premiere of a work for bassoon and orchestra by David Baker. It was such a wonderful weekend. We hope you can join us for our upcoming concert in March featuring the music of George Lewis.

#### **Current Students**

Vocal performance major William Kuethe has been appointed Assistant Theatre Director at Barrier-Free, an organization dedicated to empowering neurodivergent adults through the collaborative creation and performance of original musicals.

In addition to this leadership role, Kuethe will make his role debut as Edward Clarke in the world premiere of Computing Venus by composer Tim Takach with Opera AACC in March 2026.

These accomplishments mark significant milestones in Kuethe's emerging career as both a performer and arts leader, reflecting his dedication to accessibility, collaboration, and innovation in the performing arts.





Congratulations to Elijah Cox, senior Music Technology major with an emphasis in Voice, on completing a short documentary capturing the Jubilee Singers' summer performances abroad in Paris and Prague. The film premiered at the Choirs' Thank You Concert and has since accompanied the group to other venues as part of their ongoing presentations. Elijah's work beautifully the ensemble's documents international journey, blending footage with heartfelt performance reflections from members of the group.

#### Alumni

Mike Winch '13, recently sound designed Million Dollar Quartet in Connecticut, a rockabilly jukebox musical that tells the story of the famous December 4, 1956 recording session of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis. Back in D.C., he's in tech rehearsals for a family-friendly Edgar Allan Poe production and wrapping up the month with Halloween-themed fiddle gigs around the region.

He also leads a weekly Irish traditional session in Chevy Chase, keeping his ties to community and music strong. "I'm lucky to have the time and privilege for a local weekly third-place gig. If you ever want to chat and have a pint, let me know and I'll make sure to meet you there."





Christopher Roa '19 teaches general music and chorus at Freetown Elementary School, serving Pre-K through 5th grade in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Now in his fourth year at Freetown, he draws on his interdisciplinary degree in Music Technology and Social Entrepreneurship to engage students in singing, xylophone, dancing, and choral performance.

Outside the classroom, Roa is an active performer, lending his talents on bass, keyboards, and vocals to several Baltimore-area bands, including Majesties, Glen Zeppelin, Druid Park, and as a solo artist under the name Sushito. He credits his time at UMBC for the skills, mentorship, and community that shaped his journey, and for inspiring his career in both music and education.

#### Alumni

Since graduating Fr. Stephen Mathewes '06 has pursued a meaningful path outside of academia, attending seminary and, since 2012, serving as the priest of a growing Orthodox Christian church in the Appalachian mountains of East Tennessee. While parish life may not directly connect to musicology, it has deepened his love for Byzantine chant—a tradition rich with non-Western scales, modes, and notation. Outside of his work, he continues to play and enjoy music in his spare time. He and his wife of 21 years are proud parents of three children





Congratulations to Jeremy Keaton '20, UMBC alum and Concert Coordinator for the department, on being appointed Festival Director of the internationally recognized soundSCAPE Composition and Performance Exchange. The festival brings together earlycareer composers and performers with worldclass faculty to support new music through commissions, workshops, and performances. Known for its inclusive and collaborative soundSCAPE traditional ethos. blurs boundaries between composers performers while fostering global connections in the contemporary music community.

#### Alumni

Congratulations to **Bentley Corbett-Wilson** '17, whose private students from the International School of Music have been selected to perform at Carnegie Hall this November! Bentley will join the stage as a collaborator, performing a jazz trio with one student and a trumpet duet with the other. This honor highlights the extraordinary talent and dedication of both teacher and students alike—brayo!





Eric Kuhn '14, a graduate in French Horn Performance, went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, and now lives in Frederick, MD with their partner, Mel. They currently work at Music & Arts, specializing in orchestral string instrument repair.

Eric also keeps an active performance schedule—playing mellophone in the Baltimore Ravens Marching Band and returning to UMBC each spring to perform French horn with Professor Kaufman and the Wind Ensemble.

"Hopefully see you then!" they add. We can't wait!

#### **Faculty News**

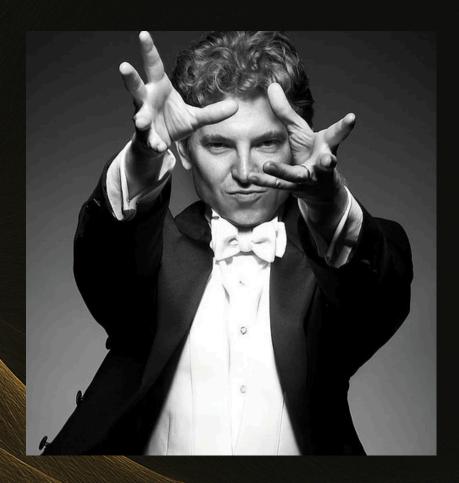


Dr. Lisa Cella has been named the new Artistic Director of the soundSCAPE Composition and Performance Exchange, a long-running summer festival dedicated to contemporary music. Now entering its 25th year, soundSCAPE has built a global reputation for fostering collaboration between composers and performers. After many years in Italy, the festival now calls Blonay, Switzerland its home.

September 2025, Dr. Juan In Sebastián Delgado performed as a guest soloist with the San Juan Symphony Orchestra in San Juan, Argentina. The program featured two cello concertos—Nicola Porpora's Concerto in A Minor and C.P.E. Bach's Concerto in A Major—both receiving their provincial premieres. Led by conductor German Wolfgang Wengenroth, the concert was met with great enthusiasm and warmth from the audience.



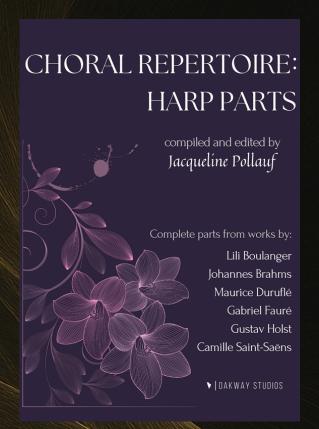
# **Faculty News**



**Dr. Philip Mann** participated in the prestigious Orvieto Leadership Summit in Italy and is among the signatories of the resulting Orvieto Statement. The summit brought together a highly selective group of 40 internationally distinguished leaders—including former heads of state and prime ministers, Nobel laureates, business executives, Club de Madrid members, and senior faculty from institutions such as Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, and Wharton.

Under the theme "Creative Insights Into Human Decision Making," participants explored some of the most pressing global challenges. Central to the discussions was the rapidly evolving impact of artificial intelligence, particularly its role in shaping the future of international governance, democratic values, and the development of foundational documents for a potential digital state.

### Faculty News



Harpist Jacqueline Pollauf has published a new book titled Choral Repertoire: Harp Parts, featuring seven complete harp parts established choral works from including Lili composers Boulanger, Johannes Brahms, Maurice Duruflé, Gabriel Fauré, Gustav Holst, and Camille Saint-Saëns. As compiler and editor, Pollauf renotated each part using modern notation and included harp-specific details to support clarity and playability. Each entry is accompanied by background information and performance guide notes to interpretation.

The book is published through Oakway Studios and is available through multiple harp distributors.

We're so proud to share that **Dr. Felipe Garibaldi** has officially completed his
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) at the
Peabody Institute, having successfully
defended his doctoral dissertation.

This is a wonderful milestone for a deeply dedicated educator, artist, and colleague. Dr. Garibaldi's passion and generosity continue to inspire our community, and we're thrilled to now celebrate him with the title he has so fully earned: Doctor of Musical Arts! Congratulations!



# Thank you!

Please send your updates to the music office so we can share your accomplishments with the community!

https://forms.gle/Mz9dPRfVRmkGCLhy5



For more information and to view our 2025 arts + concert series, visit us at

music.umbc.edu