

SPRING IS HERE!

MARCH

2026

UMBC DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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WELCOME TO OUR 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 Events



4/9 UMBC Wind Ensemble, 7:30PM

4/11 Step Back in Time: An Immersive Medieval Banquet, 6:00PM

4/12 Andrist-Daglar-Falkner Faculty Chamber Concert, 3:00PM

4/18 U.S. Army Blues Band, 7:00PM

4/19 Inscape Chamber Orchestra, 4:00PM

4/21 Brass Bash, 7:30PM

4/26 The Soldiers' Chorus, 3:00PM

4/29 UMBC Chamber Players, 7:30PM

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

Current Students

Current Students **Marcia Brown**, **Alex Edwards**, and **Emiri Ohki** had their original compositions played during the UMBC Faculty Wind Quintet concert on March 30th, at 7:30PM in the Linehan Concert Hall.

Compositions by Brown and Edwards were world premieres!

Congrats!



UMBC Jazz at Keystone Korner Jazz Club in Baltimore.



The **UMBC Jazz Ensemble** will light up the bandstand at Keystone Korner in Baltimore on Tuesday, April 14. Under the direction of Matt Belzer, the UMBC Jazz Ensemble is a large jazz group dedicated to the professional training and creative development of its members. Their program, Excursions!, featured new works composed and arranged by students. The ensemble had previously performed a successful concert at the jazz club in 2024. Tickets are available here:

<https://www.instantseats.com/?fuseaction=home.artist&VenueID=514&artistid=25895>

Medieval Banquet in April!



Dr. Lindsay Johnson (Music), James Magruder (Visual Arts), and Jill Vasbinder (Dance), along with students from their interdisciplinary arts course, will present an immersive Medieval Banquet on April 11 as part of UMBC's Meeting in the Middle: Trailblazers – Visualizing the Premodern World undergraduate conference.

Held in the Dance Cube (PAHB 337), the event invites audiences to step into the Rhine Valley in the year 1161 for a fully realized artistic experience inspired by the world of Hildegard of Bingen. The evening will feature a three-course, period-inspired meal, live music and dance, and visual recreations developed by students across disciplines.

The conference and banquet are supported by the Arts+ initiative and the Departments of Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts, and English.

Alumni

D’Juan Moreland ‘24, music composition, won the American Pops Orchestra’s 2nd Annual Ruth Wales Du Pont Collegiate Composition Competition in the Popular Music category!

Selected from hundreds of applicants nationwide, each finalist composed a new work inspired by an object from the Winterthur Museum’s collection. These original compositions were performed and premiered by members of The American Pops Orchestra at Winterthur Museum and Gardens in Delaware on Sunday, March 29.

Watch D’Juan’s piece “The Hornet and the Peacock” here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/Uwi2oFv7apA?si=3MfHOBIXO31sJVOP&t=4618>



Gaby Echiverri ‘25, violin performance and media and communication studies, was featured on the UMBC Careers Unleashed Podcast, where she discussed overcoming performance anxiety, building professional networks, studying abroad in Piacenza, Italy, and challenging the myth of the “starving artist.” Her story highlights how a path in the arts can lead to meaningful and sustainable opportunities.

Gaby is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Violin Performance at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Faculty News



Dr. Liana Harron's Vesna Duo, a collaborative chamber ensemble known for imaginative programming and genre-crossing arrangements, was recently featured in Gramophone Magazine's "Video of the Day." The feature spotlights the duo's reimagining of Rihanna's "Diamonds," highlighting their distinctive blend of classical artistry and contemporary repertoire.

They also just released EP-Album "Poptimism" on March 1st which is also featured in Gramophone Magazine!

Watch and read here:

<https://www.gramophone.co.uk/content/news/video-of-the-day-the-vesna-duo-reimagines-rihannas-diamonds>

Faculty News



Dr. Audrey Andrist, UMBC Affiliate Artist, recently performed Duke Ellington's 'New World A-Comin'' in Houston, Texas, under the direction of Anthony Parther. The performance highlighted Andrist's dynamic artistry in this powerful and rarely performed concerto.

The full concert is available to watch online, with the concerto beginning around the 48:30 mark:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehcu8gMaeL0&t=3314s>

Congratulations to **Lulu Mwangi**, Assistant Professor of Choral Conducting, and **Edryn Coleman**, Affiliate Artist of Choral Education, on conducting All-State Choirs this month. Mwangi led the MMEA Maryland All-State Junior Mixed Chorus, while Coleman conducted the DMEA Delaware All-State Junior Choir.

Each ensemble brought together outstanding middle and high school students from across their respective states, selected through a rigorous audition process. Their leadership reflects a strong commitment to excellence in choral education.



Faculty News



Edryn Coleman, Affiliate Artist of Choral Education, was honored to conduct the National Concert Chorus at Carnegie Hall, leading a radiant program that included his setting of Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing and a world premiere by composer Kahan Taraporevala.

Each year, National Concerts, Inc. invites distinguished ensembles from across the country to perform at Carnegie Hall, making this appearance a significant national recognition of Coleman's artistry and leadership.

Dr. Lisa Cella was selected to present performances of two solo works from her Low Flutes Project at the Low Flutes Festival Online on March 28, 2026. The featured pieces, *Persephoneia* by Adam Greene and *Whistle~Whisper~Whispby* Elainie Lillios, were both commissioned and premiered by Cella, highlighting her ongoing contributions to expanding the repertoire for low flute.



Faculty News



Jacqueline Pollauf, affiliate artist of Harp, recently led a workshop on harp extended techniques at the Atlanta Harp Festival, a three-day event in Decatur, Georgia. During the session, attendees explored innovative and unconventional ways of creating sound on the harp.

Her recent publication, *Choral Repertoire: Harp Parts*, also received a laudatory review in *Harp Column Magazine*, which praised its thoughtful typesetting, clear layout, and practical performance guidance. The review noted that the book is a “must-have addition” for both seasoned performers and those new to choral repertoire.

Dustin Donahue, Assistant Professor of Percussion at UMBC, has joined the percussion and piano quartet Yarn/Wire. Known for creating visceral and adventurous new music at the intersection of concert tradition and sonic experimentation, Yarn/Wire has been a leading force in contemporary music since its founding in 2005. The ensemble has performed at major concert halls and festivals worldwide and has premiered more than 200 commissioned works.



Thank you!

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

<https://forms.gle/Mz9dPRfVRmkGCLhy5>



**UMBC
MUSIC**

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

music.umbc.edu