



**12** Award Winners

**16** Ramey Retires

**20** New Guest Artists

# SHOCKER SOUNDS

VOLUME 4 - 2021



# PROPEL THE FUTURE

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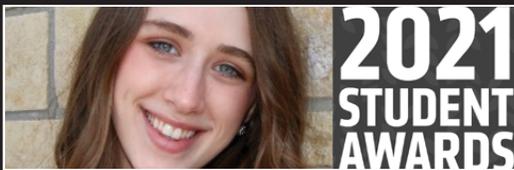
WICHITA STATE  
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COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS  
School of Music

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Faculty Updates - Read what our faculty have been up to over this past summer

6



Annual Awarded Winners - Please check out and celebrate our 2021 award winners with us!

12



Symphonic Soul - A Wichita-area duo works to increase awareness of black classical music through their new sound

24



Amplifying our Mission - A new program brings professionals to campus to work with WSU students

28



Anything but Standard - Legendary jazz saxophonist Bobby Watson visits the WSU School of Music

30

## Welcome to the fourth volume of Shocker Sounds!

Who are we?

We're a community that values diversity, inclusiveness, creativity, compassion, inquiry, and quality, a faculty fully engaged in creative and scholarly activities and equally engaged in the art of teaching, compassionate and thoughtful students dedicated to creating and teaching music locally, nationally, and internationally, a body of alumni who win state and national teaching awards and hold jobs in major orchestras and ensembles, a creative space home to two concert halls, two recording studios, and a dedicated chamber music venue. Wiedemann Hall houses the great Marcussen Organ—the first of its kind to be built in North America, and Steinway concert grand pianos are available in every performance space for our students, faculty and guests.

Beyond that, Wichita is the largest metropolitan area in the state of Kansas, rich in cultural diversity and artistic experiences. We are home to three major performing arts organizations in which our students and faculty regularly perform: the Wichita Symphony, Music Theater Wichita, and Wichita Grand Opera. Our jazz faculty and students perform in local clubs and festivals throughout the city. Our music education students work with teachers in Wichita's various school districts, shadowing many of our own alumni.

We provide the tools to express yourself fully as an artist and thinker so you can help propel the future of the arts wherever you go.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



I suppose the first thing I should do is introduce myself. I am Timothy Shade, and I am the Interim Director of the School of Music for the 2021-2022 academic year. I have been fortunate to work in the School of Music as the Director of Bands since 2016.

I hail from Ohio originally (GO BUCKS!) but came to Wichita after working in Miami, Florida for three years. Quite the juxtaposition, I know. But my wife and I truly love living in Wichita. The traffic here is way better than in Miami!

Thank you for reading our *Shocker Sounds*, an update re-

garding the happenings in the School of Music this past year.

I have been meditating on “Endurance” a lot recently. One definition of ‘endurance’ that I particularly like is “the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way.”

One might say that training to attain mastery in any field requires endurance. I would surely agree! I also believe that endurance is the key to success as any student, but especially a music student. The hours upon hours of individual practice, rehearsals, lessons, concerts, auditions, masterclasses, recitals, and MORE illustrate not just endurance but perseverance, diligence, and grit.

Training to be a musician is difficult in “normal” circumstances. Training to be a musician during the Covid-19 pandemic has been almost impossible.

However, our students continue to show-up, practice, strive to be better versions of themselves, and pursue excellence in the field of music. Likewise, our faculty accepted and overcame the challenge of teaching a medium that necessitates close, person-to-person interac-

tion through virtual platforms, masks, and shields.

What could be more inspiring than watching this level of endurance yield phenomenal results? Ensemble concerts were recorded in empty halls, recitals were performed in vacant spaces, and many classes were held in a virtual setting. But...music endured.

You will read in the pages ahead about the wonderful experiences that our students and faculty embarked on this past year including bittersweet transitions and important accomplishments.

I am humbled and inspired to work with the students, faculty, and staff in School of Music at Wichita State University. This is truly a special place that fosters the best in musical pedagogy and performance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy M. Shade'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T'.

Timothy M. Shade, D.M.A.  
Interim Director, School of Music  
Director of Bands



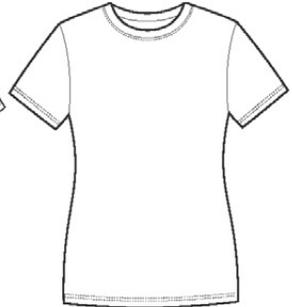
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# FACULTY UPDATES



**Dr. Elaine Bernstorf** oversaw seven new Master's of Music Education students this summer. She was also a keynote speaker and presented two sessions at the Early Childhood Music and Movement (ECMMA) conference hosted by Michigan State University, and she published an article called "Working with Students with Specialized Communication Needs" with Dr. Mara Culp, Eastman School of Music, in *Teaching Music*.

**Catherine Consiglio** spent her summer continuing her work as Artistic Director and Violist for Chamber Music at the Barn, which celebrated its 25th anniversary with 16 concerts in June and July. Catherine performed in 10 of those concerts and says her summer, while demanding, was joyful, rewarding, and successful.

**Dr. Mark Foley** had major work done on his instrument in Albuquerque and spent time backpacking while it was in shop. He also played many amazing concerts with the Colorado Music Festival orchestra in Boulder and visited with Tom and Ingrid Fowler, who send their greetings.

**Rachelle Goter** spent the summer with her husband and three

children, travelling to New Mexico and having a family band concert out of their garage. Professor Goter's ensemble, the WSU Clarinet Choir, was selected to perform at KMEA, and Professor Goter herself was chosen to perform at the International Clarinet Association's Clarinet-Fest 2022 in Reno, Nevada. She will be performing alongside faculty members Dr. Tim Jones, Catherine Consiglio, and Dr. Leonid Shukaev.

**Dr. Meg Gray's** summer was full of visits with family and friends and spent implementing the School's exciting new online curriculum for class piano. In addition, Dr. Gray presented on piano pedagogy curriculum for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy.

**Dr. Timothy Jones** divided his summer evenly between teaching private lessons and hitting the road with friends and fam-

ily. He traveled to Minnesota to be with a friend visiting the US from Sweden, went camping and crystal mining in Arkansas, and spent a week in Colorado with his husband and their 'extended family' – two friends with three children ages 1, 4 and 7.

**Dr. David MacDonald** worked on a commissioned piece for the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra (Allen, TX) and served as an evaluator for the NAFME student composer awards.

**Dr. Steve Oare** was once again able to help run Wichita State's Kodály summer workshop, one of the largest in the country. This past year, they added a second level to the track created in 2019 for secondary teachers. An excellent tool for graduate student recruiting, this past year saw six Kodály alums complete their master's degrees. Dr. Oare also spent time this summer

attending the "Modern Band Summit", a professional development program aimed at developing strategies for teaching pop music.

**Jim Pisano** has been performing both regionally and nationally again, and he was selected to be a clinician for the South Dakota All-State Jazz Festival. He also performed his original music at the Wichita Jaz festival with Organique, his jazz organ group plus saxophone, and he was on Brian Simpson's All that Matters, released on the Shanachie record label.

**Dr. Kelly St. Pierre** returned to the United States this summer after spending two years in the Czech Republic. She has several publications coming out and is excited for a new book contract she just received from Cambridge.



# OUR '20-21 GRADUATES

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESS!

### Undergraduate

---

Brady Ast, Madison Brandt, Wesley Calvert, Alyssa Carlson, Amira Coleman, Tamara Cox, Katie Draskovich, Abigail Faflick, Shontel Gaddis, Sidney Hose, Courtney Houston, Samuel Natvig, Emily Mudra, Jessica Neises, Patrick Orr, Allison Regehr, Joseph Richey, Leah Rosales, Madison Roths, Joseph Schmitt, Hailey Titus, Micah White, Noah Williams

### Graduate

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Lindsay Blurton, David Browne, Caroline Buckner, Isaiah Burkel, Mei Chiou, Erik Cooke-Stone, Adam Cope, Karissa Evensen, Matthew Fisher, Kristopher Hilding, Angela Loganbill, Judith Mace, Ada May, Andrea Mendoza, Frederick Moose, Stephanie Owen, Jessica Perez, David Perez Martinez, Kari Plagmann, Ashley Reichenborn, Daniel Rivas, Kayla Smith, Eitan Spiegel, Amy Tolle, Gabrielle Wiens, Ashley Wolf



# SPOTLIGHT ON: Our Mu Phi Epsilon Scholarship Winners!

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**ANNE YAP**



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**MU PHI EPSILON**  
Phi Pi Chapter

*Wichita Alumni Chapter  
Scholarship Winner*

**LINDSAY UNRUH**

**MU PHI EPSILON**  
Phi Pi Chapter

*Wichita Alumni  
Chapter  
Scholarship  
Winner*

**PATRICK ORR**



**Contgratulations** to pianist Patrick Orr on winning 2nd Prize in the 2021 Mu Phi International Competition, as well!

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR LOCAL  
ALUMNI CHAPTER  
FOR SUPPORTING  
OUR STUDENTS!**



# OUR FUEL



# EXCELLENCE THROUGH GIVING

Music Associates is a group of community members who pool their financial resources into a single fund benefiting students of the School of Music. Our sole purpose is to enhance the opportunities for music students at WSU. None of the projects we support are funded by state or municipal allocations, so without private funding, they simply would not occur.

Please join us in this effort to maintain the tradition of musical excellence at Wichita State University.  
Your support inspires musicians and transforms lives.



**Think your contribution can't make a difference? Think again!**

## Contributions Are Tax Deductible!

Principal	Soloist	Concert Master	Guest Artist	Maestro
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## ADDITIONAL PERKS WITH YOUR DONATION

Membership in Music Associates has benefits beyond the knowledge that you're helping shape the next generation of musicians. For instance, you will receive invitations to the Spring Soiree featuring our scholarship recipients, with great food and lovely surroundings. You can also request a second ticket free with the purchase of one ticket to select School of Music performances. Finally, your name will appear in the WSU School of Music concert programs alongside the rest of your fellow Associates.

For any questions about giving, please contact:

Ann Marie Siegwarth  
at the WSU Foundation  
(316) 978-3945

# YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



## GIFTS

You're invited to join others in supporting the education of our talented music students. Your donation will support student scholarships, guest artists and purchases that will enable us to stay competitive. You may donate to any of these funds listed to the right or inquire on how to start a scholarship. All gifts are welcome.

Patrons of Music  
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Music Student Enrichment  
Fund for Orchestra  
Jazz Arts Support Fund  
Choral Activities  
Voice Study Abroad  
String Improvisation Fund  
Clarinet Fund  
Organ Recital Fund  
Band Instrument Repair  
Fund

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Every gift makes a difference. Please be as generous as you are able.

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[wichita.edu/foundation](http://wichita.edu/foundation)

## GIVE BY CHECK

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This list reflects donations made between July 23, 2020 and August 23, 2021.  
 Those donors marked with an asterisk are deceased.

# OUR DRIVE



# THANKING A LEGEND

Premiere American operatic bass-baritone Samuel Ramey has retired after six years with Wichita State University

*by Dr. Pina Mozzani*



Legendary opera bass Samuel Ramey is retiring from the vocal faculty at WSU where he has graced us with his presence, his musical, vocal and linguistic knowledge, and his wisdom for

the last six years.

Sam came to us as the conquering hero (literally, from his many operatic roles) – the most recorded bass in the history of

opera and a fixture in every major opera house in the world. He leaves us as more than a teacher and colleague. He leaves us as a friend, and his presence will be sorely missed.

His humble and gracious manner, a product of his Colby, Kansas upbringing, disarmed faculty and students alike. These attributes made students simultaneously awestruck and comfortable as he bestowed upon them forty years of musical and linguistic wisdom gleaned from making music and operatic history among the world's elite of classical music.

It was WSU's good fortune to have Sam as a student in the School of Music, and it was that connection that gave us the inside track in vying for his skills. One of the finest musical moments in the WSU School of Music was our production of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*, when Sam reprised his role of the



Reverend Olin Blicht opposite graduate students and undergraduates alike. How exciting for the students to perform on the stage with such a talented, seasoned artist. This is the ultimate in "Applied Learning". Samuel Ramey is a shining example of what constitutes outstanding teaching and collegiality. We will miss you, my friend.

Sam and his wife Lindsay, herself an invaluable addition to the vocal faculty, will continue to reside in Wichita, where they will grace both the community and the university with their presence. We wish them Godspeed, good health, and rich blessings as they start the next phase of their lives and their time in Wichita.



# SYMPHONIC SOUL

The musical duo Nikoyle Noel aims to increase the representation of music written by black composers

by Jesse Koza

"There's a conversation going on within the classical music community that concerns itself with the lack of racial and gender diversity with personnel both on and off stage."

Nikoyle Noel wastes no time getting to the heart of the matter. The duo, made up of Wichita State alumnus Justin Noel Hall (MM '19) and Da'Kneisha Nikoyle Blount (who also spent time at WSU), aim to create original works that "share Black stories told from Black perspectives to relate classical music to Black audiences and foster a desire to study music amongst young black students". Their social media handle, Tupac meets Bach ([facebook.com/tupacmeetsbach](https://www.facebook.com/tupacmeetsbach)), lays it out in an even faster three words.

They've given a new name to their personal fusion of styles: Symphonic Soul.

Hall and Blount see Nikoyle Noel as a natural outgrowth of their friendship, with their individual enthusiasm feeding into



***Stained with Beauty,*  
performed with WSU's  
Wind Ensemble**

[instagram.com/tupacmeetsbach](https://www.instagram.com/tupacmeetsbach)

the other's: "We tend to feed off each other," Blount says.

Dr. Timothy Shade, Interim Director of the School of Music and Director of Bands, heard one of Nikoyle Noel's demos and immediately reached out for a collaboration, commissioning the duo for a piece to be performed with his Wind Ensemble. In the end, the duo adapted their piece *Stained with Beauty* for wind ensemble, chorus, soprano, and marimba, combining

gospel, R&B, hip-hop, and jazz into that symphonic soul. (For those interested, a recording of the concert should appear on the School of Music's facebook and/or YouTube page soon.)

*Stained with Beauty* is more than autobiographical for Blount. "It was a little motif I wrote in [Dr. Roush's] theory class," she says, noting that it "turned into a symphony because I had experience to write from." Listeners tell her they love the song, and she replies, "Yeah, you liked it, but I lived it." And while she describes that experience as unpleasant, she adds, "Something beautiful came out of it."

Nikoyle Noel has another upcoming commission with Dr. Shade's Wind Ensemble, due to appear this spring: *Khronos* will explore facets of the human condition through the lens of time.

Nikoyle Noel's ambitions do not stop at the stage, however. One long-term goal for the group



## Da'Kneisha Nikoyle Blount and Justin Noel Hall make up the musical duo Nikoyle Noel

is the creation of a non-profit foundation. The Nikoyle Noel Foundation would fund instruments, scholarships, lessons, and auditions for black or brown students who would otherwise be unable to participate.

Beyond monetary goals, the duo hopes their inclusion of popular styles can help connect with and inspire young black children who might otherwise never consider picking up a classical instrument. "We have the advantage to show that music doesn't have to be an either/or, but perhaps both," Hall writes. Ideally, the children might then go beyond classical study to "learn how to improvise, play

jazz and R&B, and use the fullness of their lived experience in their playing and expression."

Nikoyle Noel certainly hasn't been without opportunities to inspire. Since September 2020, they've performed for WSU's 13th Annual MLK Commemoration, the Historic Dunbar Theatre's Benefit Concert, and Sleep Out ICT, along with appearing in a community recital and hosting their own virtual concert. Anyone who is interested in following where the duo heads from here should keep an eye on their social media channels or their Patreon page ([patreon.com/tupacmeetsbach](https://patreon.com/tupacmeetsbach)).

*Stained with Beauty* erupts with the visceral pain of a relationship that unexpectedly ends. Confusion, reminiscence, and sorrow intermingle throughout, built around a heart-stopping, mourning cry from Da'Kneisha in the middle of piece. It is a bold statement and a powerful nascence for Symphonic Soul.

And, should Nikoyle Noel's momentum continue in a post-COVID world, only the beginning of what promises to be a glorious musical journey.

---

Quotes in this article taken from Nikoyle Noel's Patreon page and an email interview with the artists.

# AMPLIFYING OUR MISSION

A new program funded by husband and wife donors brings real-world experiences to Wichita State keyboard and vocal music students

*by Jesse Koza, Dr. Meg Gray, and Alan Held*



**SOM students and faculty pose with one of the program funders, Bob Nugent, and guest artist Dr. Karen Savage**

Linda Nugent is no stranger to Wichita classrooms. Her first connection to the city came as a student: she's a Wichita State alumna, having earned both her undergraduate and Master's of Music Education degrees here.

She then spent 25 years on the other side of the desk, teaching elementary and middle school vocal music in USD 259 and Andover. Her work in the classrooms of Wichita helped to raise generations of students.

And now, eleven years after a career change, Linda – along with her husband, Bob – is doing it again.

The Linda and Bob Nugent Guest Artist Residency Program



### **Collaboartive Pianist Dr. Karen Hsiao Savage worked with the Keyboard area**

was established in 2019 with the goal of providing Wichita State students with “first-rate master class experience[s] marrying the voice and piano”, opportunities that give the students chances to challenge themselves and prepare for real-world artistic employment opportunities. The program’s focus is on opera, voice studies, and collaborative piano, and the guest artists are brought in for an entire week to work with WSU’s students.

That love of classical voice and piano comes from a lifetime of music. In addition to teaching

young choirs, Linda minored in piano while earning her Music Education degree.

While Bob is currently employed as a bankruptcy judge for the District of Kansas, he has been immersed in classical singing his entire life, whether it be while enjoying the Saturday Met performances of his youth, performing with the Wichita Chamber Chorale, or being cast as Balthazar in Opera Kansas’s productions of Amahl and the Night Visitors.

The program’s inaugural event in October 2020 brought another WSU alum back to Wichita: the Germany-based opera coach, accompanist, and conductor Whitney Reader. The vocal students thoroughly enjoyed their time with Maestro Reader, who led them in both private coachings and a well-received master class.

In Spring 2021, the keyboard area welcomed Dr. Karen Savage, the collaborative pianist specialist from UMKC. Like Maestro Reader, Dr. Savage spent time with the students in private lessons and masterclasses, and she also graced our piano pedagogy class with her time. In all, her visit was a privilege for the keyboard area’s students.



### **WSU alum Maestro Whitney Reader spent time with Wichita State's vocal students**

Like its inaugural season, the program will continue to bring two artists per year - treating vocalists and pianists as the equal collaboartors they are - and helping the university live up to one of its core goals: Wichita State as an institution prides itself on its applied learning, where students have opportunities to learn from and network with active professionals in their respective fields. Now, thanks to the kindness of Linda and Bob Nugent, the School of Music can take those experiences to an entirely new level.

# ANYTHING BUT STANDARD

Bobby Watson, legendary jazz saxophonist, comes to WSU

*by Jesse Koza and Jim Pisano*



Bobby Watson, jazz saxophonist and emeritus of UMKC and the Art Blakey Jazz Messengers was in residence at WSU for several days this past April. His visit was sponsored by the School of Music Jazz Division, the WSU Connoisseur Series, and a grant from the NEA.

Described as “a saxophonist, composer, arranger, and educator,” Bobby spent time early in his career in Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers, where he even spent time as musical director. The Jazz Messengers were a “proving ground for young jazz talent” and provided upcoming players with undeniable proof of their ability. Bobby spent around five years with the group, earning his ‘doctorate’ from the ‘University of Blakey’.

Bobby’s resume has continued to grow, almost exponentially, since. He would go on to form his own groups, including Horizon, considered a preeminent small ensemble since the mid-1980s, and his 1986 release *Love Remains (Red)* was rec-



**Bobby Watson, saxophone, performs on stage with Jazz Arts I and ensemble director Jim Pisano**

ognized by the Penguin Guide to Jazz as a recording “any jazz aficionado should own.” Suffice to say, the saxophonist has not slowed down since.

During his visit to Wichita State, Bobby spent time with students and faculty in several different capacities. He held a clinic for and rehearsed with WSU’s Jazz Arts 1 ensemble, he taught indi-

vidual private lessons throughout his visit, and his residency culminated in a thrilling live performance in Miller Concert Hall with Jazz Arts 1.

Throughout all of this, Bobby was an incredible teacher and a beautiful, kind human. He was a consummate artist at the highest level. The students, faculty, and greater community gained

much from his presence.

For the jazz area, it was a wonderful way to cap off their year. After months of recorded concerts, being able to play live with a guest artist of the highest caliber helped ensure Bobby’s residency will be remembered for quite some time.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September

September 8: Wednesdays in Wiedemann  
September 12: Faculty Artist Series, Dr. Timothy Jones, violin  
September 14: Symphony Orchestra  
September 21: Rie Bloomfield Organ Series, Nathan Laube  
September 22: Wind Ensemble  
September 28: Combos/Guitar Ensemble  
September 29: Jazz Arts I/Banda Hispanica  
September 30: Jazz Arts II

## October

October 5: Concert Chorale/Madrigal Singers  
October 6: Symphonic Band  
October 7: Wu Choir/Shocker Sing  
October 13: Wednesdays in Wiedemann  
October 19: Faculty Artist Series, WSU Viola Quintets  
October 21: Opera Theater, Mozart's La Finta Giardiniera (Semi-Staged)  
October 23: Opera Theater, Mozart's La Finta Giardiniera (Semi-Staged)  
October 26: Symphony Orchestra

## November

November 9: Rie Bloomfield Organ Series, Balint Karosi  
November 11: Wind Ensemble  
November 12: Faculty Artist Series, Aaron Robinson, oboe  
November 15: WSU Opera Theater, "Autumn Arias"  
November 15: Symphonic Band  
November 16: Combos/Guitar Ensemble  
November 17: Jazz Arts I/Banda Hispanica  
November 18: Jazz Arts II/Mid-Kansas Jazz Ensemble  
November 19: Symphony Orchestra  
November 20: Impulse Percussion Group  
November 23: Wednesdays in Wiedemann, Christmas Organ Concert  
November 28: Candlelight Concert  
November 29: Candlelight Concert  
November 30: Candlelight Concert

## December

December 4: Madrigal Singers Dinner - Rhatigan Student Center

## February

February 2: Wednesdays in Wiedemann  
February 11: WSU Opera Theater, Opera Scenes  
February 13: WSU Opera Theater, Opera Scenes  
February 17: Wind Ensemble  
February 21: Concert Chorale/Shocker Sing/Wu Choir  
February 22: Symphony Orchestra  
February 23: Symphonic Band  
February 27: Faculty Artist Series, Julie Bees, piano

## March

March 1: Combos/Guitar Ensemble  
March 2: Jazz Arts I/Banda Hispanica  
March 2: Wednesdays in Wiedemann  
March 3: Jazz Arts II  
March 4: Faculty Artist Series, Phillip Black, tuba  
March 7 - 8: Madrigal Singers Invitational

## April

April 1: Faculty Artist Series, Rachele Goter, clarinet  
April 6: Wednesdays in Wiedemann  
April 7 - 10: WSU Opera Theater, Lori Laitman's The Scarlet Letter  
April 14: Wind Ensemble  
April 19: Rie Bloomfield Organ Series, Christopher Houlihan  
April 20: Symphonic Band  
April 22: Jazz Invitational  
April 25: Impulse Percussion Group  
April 26: Jazz Combos/Guitar Ensemble  
April 26: Madrigal Singers, Schubertiade!  
April 27: Wednesdays in Wiedemann, Annual Organ POPS Concert  
April 27: Jazz Arts I/Banda Hispanica  
April 28: Jazz Arts II

## May

May 1: Choir/Orchestra Concert - Miller Concert Hall, 3:00pm

For event information, including descriptions, locations, and times, please see [wichita.edu/performances](http://wichita.edu/performances)

For Ticket Information, visit [wichita.edu/fineartsboxoffice](http://wichita.edu/fineartsboxoffice)

Call (316) 978-3233

Or stop by the CFA Box Office in Duerksen Fine Arts Center