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# Noteworthy

**Campbellsville**  
UNIVERSITY   
School of Music

April 2011



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**Dear Ed,**

Welcome to **Noteworthy!** We hope you enjoy this monthly update from the Campbellsville University School of Music. Please forward Noteworthy to people you think might benefit from receiving this regular update using the "Forward email" link at the bottom of the newsletter.

## **CU students earn high rankings at NATS**

By Elena Groholske, student news writer

Campbellsville University's School of Music students competed in this year's National Association of Teachers of Singing Mid-South Regional Auditions. The auditions were held on April 8-9 with five students competing; two of them advancing to the final round.

The competition was held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. The Mid-South region includes colleges and universities from Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Indiana.

Jian-Ji Wang, an ESL student from China, was a semi-finalist in the second most difficult category, Advanced Men. "The judges were extremely complimentary of his voice and his physical presentation," said Dr. David Hedrick, assistant professor of music.

Margareth Miguel, a senior from Brazil, advanced to the final round in the most difficult category, Post Advanced, where she competed with doctorate students. She will be graduating in December with a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance.

"I'm so glad because my coach, Dr. David Hedrick, trusted that I could have a good result in this competition and among excellent and experienced singers. I received the third place award," Miguel said. Jamaal Stiles, a native of Campbellsville, advanced to the preliminary rounds. "He is a gifted counter-tenor, meaning a male singer with a soprano range. His voice is very unique and quite rare in the world of

classical voice," Hedrick said.

"It's always a positive experience getting feedback from others. Regardless if you move on to the semi-finals or finals, it's good to have people you don't know and that don't know you hearing you and giving an honest opinion without hurting your feelings," Stiles said. "Anytime I have the opportunity to sing for others I always use that opportunity to help myself as a performer."

Taeun Moon, a graduate student from South Korea, advanced to the finals in the Advanced Men category. Advancing to the finals is an honor given only to the top three vocalists in the region.

Joe Weber, a freshman from New Haven, Ky., advanced to the preliminary round. He is also the co-founder of the men's vocal group Top It Off!

"All the students received extremely positive comments from the judges in all rounds in which they participated," said Hedrick.

## **CU music student hopes to work with film scoring**

By Christina Miller, office assistant

"By listening to music, you can be transported to anywhere."

"Who doesn't hear the Harry Potter theme and not automatically think of Hogwarts (or want to be there)?" Seth Johnson, a Campbellsville University senior from Leitchfield, Ky., asked.

Johnson, a music composition and theory student at CU, began playing the cello at age 11. But he didn't always play cello. "I actually started off playing the violin for a week, then got tired of it because I didn't like holding my hand up," Johnson said. "So, I switched to cello."



Seth Johnson plays cello during a University Orchestra concert. He has composed music played by the orchestra. (Campbellsville University Photo by Munkh-Amgalan Galsanjants)

The 2007 graduate of Grayson County High School wrote his first composition in his senior year of high school.

Johnson's favorite style of music is movie soundtracks. His favorite movie

soundtracks include The Lord of the Rings, Pirates of the Caribbean, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban and the Village. "These soundtracks instantly put you into their respective worlds, but at the same time good music on their own."

It was in Johnson's sophomore year at Campbellsville University that his work, "The Legend of Sherwood Forest" based off of Robin Hood, was played in concert by Campbellsville University's Orchestra, which later resulted in the production of a CD with the university orchestra, ensembles and soloists featuring music composed by Johnson.

Seven of the nine songs on the CD, titled Soli Deo Gloria, were composed, arranged and orchestrated by Johnson.

"It was sort of a surreal experience to see the final product and listen to music I wrote," he said of the CD.

Johnson is writing "Superhero Symphony," which he hopes to have the orchestra perform.

"One major part of being a composer is to have your own 'sound,' so that is what I am trying to create with [Superhero Symphony]. It's fun to write exciting, thematic music."

Johnson said all music is "interrelated and can be combined to create countless new sounds... I try to blend different aspects from different kinds of music and create something unique and new."

He recently wrote a piece using melodies from the Catholic church and "fused it together with an Arabic-Middle Eastern flair."

Johnson, who is scheduled to graduate this May, is looking into graduate school, but hopes to try film scoring in the future.

Dr. Jim Moore, professor of music theory and composition at CU, said, "Seth is an extraordinary musician who will go on to do amazing things. He has been the ideal student here at Campbellsville: bright, talented, independently motivated, yet modest and eager for guidance. His compositions have touched listeners deeply not only on our campus but throughout the state."

Last summer he scored a documentary for "My Kentucky Home: Grayson County," a KET series that looks at the history of various communities in Kentucky. He has been asked by the company, Marvo Entertainment Group, to work on more projects for the series as well as

other opportunities that may arise.

Johnson is the son of Allen and Ranae Johnson of Leitchfield, Ky.

CDs are available by contacting Johnson at [sethjohnson5@yahoo.com](mailto:sethjohnson5@yahoo.com). He also has a YouTube channel, [youtube.com/sethjohnsonmusicguy](http://youtube.com/sethjohnsonmusicguy), where you can listen to some of his performances.

## **University Chorale planning concert tour of Brazil**

On May 19, 2011, the Campbellsville University Chorale will depart for Brazil on a concert tour. While in Brazil, the group will be performing in churches and schools.

The message that will be delivered will be two-fold. The first is the sharing of the love and grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through the program of sacred music, the message of Christ will be broadcast in cities like Sao Paulo, Sao Caetano do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Teresopolis and Niteroi.

The second shared message is of the good works of Campbellsville University in educating young people from all over the world on the CU campus.

In preparation for this tour, the Chorale has performed at several churches. They have one final church performance scheduled on April 17 at Lebanon Baptist Church in Lebanon, Ky. at the 11:00 a.m. service.

The Chorale in conjunction with the Chamber Choir will perform at Campbellsville University on Saturday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gheens Recital Hall.

If you would like to contribute to the Chorale, please contact Dr. Tony Cunha at [aocunha@campbellsville.edu](mailto:aocunha@campbellsville.edu).

## **In the Spotlight**

**Melissa Askew** ('11 MMCM) and her husband welcomed their first child, Kaylee Elizabeth, on March 15. Kaylee was 6 lb., 2 oz. and 19 inches long. Congratulations!

## **Calendar of Events**

All events are at The Gheens Recital Hall in the Gosser Fine Arts Center unless otherwise indicated and are free of charge. For information, contact the School of Music at 270-789-5237.

Since some concerts and recitals may change; please check the [School of Music website](#) for complete and up-to-date information.

April 26: Wind Ensemble, 8 p.m., Ransdell Chapel

April 28: Orchestra, 8 p.m., Ransdell Chapel

April 29: Saxophone Quartet, 4 p.m.

April 30: An Evening of Choral Music featuring the University Chorale & Chamber Choir, 7 p.m.

May 2: String Ensemble, 8 p.m.

May 3: Concert Band, 8 p.m., Ransdell Chapel

May 6: Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m., Ransdell Chapel

## **We want to hear from you!**

We want to know what you are doing -- and know your former classmates will want to know as well.

So, keep in contact. You can call us or email us at [music@campbellsville.edu](mailto:music@campbellsville.edu) (270-789-5237).

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