

CRANE

The Crane School of Music • SUNY Potsdam

Fall 2019 News

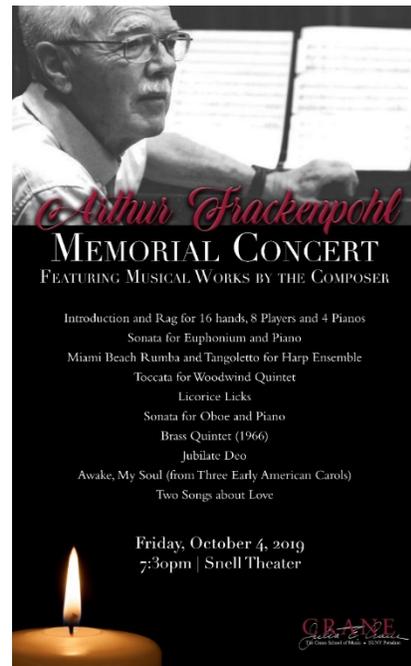
School News

Two memorial concerts were held during the fall 2019 semester, both honoring Crane faculty members.



On Saturday, September 28, Crane faculty and students presented a concert in memory of Crane Professor of Voice **Boris Loushin**. A renowned Russian baritone, Dr. Loushin (1934-2019) taught voice at the Leningrad (St. Petersburg) State Conservatory for 25 years, after which he joined the Crane faculty, where he taught voice for 20 years, alongside his wife, pianist Eugenia Tsarov. In the spirit of his lifelong dedication to Russian vocal music, the concert featured music by Glinka, Tchaikovsky, Borodin, Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninov, Gavrilin, and Shostakovich.

Then on Friday, October 4, the School honored **Arthur Frackenpohl**, who taught composition, theory, and class piano at Crane from 1949 to 1985, and remained an active member of the emeriti community long after his retirement. He passed away in June. He held bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastman and a doctoral degree from McGill, and his study of composition also included work with Darius Milhaud at the Berkshire Music Festival and with Nadia Boulanger at Fontainebleau. His hundreds of compositions cover a wide range of genres and styles; he developed a particular affinity for brass chamber music, with many performances of his original compositions and arrangements by the Potsdam Brass Quintet, and, fittingly, the establishment of the student Frackenpohl Honors Brass Quintet through the generosity of Art and his family. He also produced numerous arrangements performed and recorded by the Canadian Brass. Along with other Crane composers, he contributed music to the 1980 Winter Olympics held in Lake Placid; he received numerous other commissions, fellowships, and honors during his long and productive career.



Music Education Department News

The Music Education Department welcomed **Dr. Julia Koza**, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as their fall Joy Douglass Visiting Master Teacher residency in August. Dr. Koza's residency was centered on Ideology and the Music Curriculum: Gender and Equity in Music Education, part of SUNY Potsdam's celebration of the upcoming 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in the United States. The three-day event focused on the critical examination of ideology and the music curriculum, with special emphasis on gender and equity in music education. In addition to Dr. Koza, a scholar, researcher, and long-time advocate of diversity, equity, and inclusion in music education, with a special interest in women's studies, a number of master teachers were on hand to facilitate classrooms workshops. These included Crane alumni **John Bernstein** (13), Monticello, NY; **Ben Rybolt** (13, MM15), Rochester, NY; **Kevin Tims** (00) Brentwood, NY; **Marichelle Weill** (12, MM16) East Rockaway, NY; **Genevieve Brigida** (12, MM16) Bronx, NY; and **Kathryn Ta** (13, MM16) West Genesee, NY.

Performance Department News

The **Crane Opera Ensemble's** November 2018 world premiere production of **Tom Cipullo's** opera, *MAYO*, was awarded First Place in Division VI of the National Opera Association's 2018-2019 Opera Production Competition. We congratulate everyone involved in the project, faculty, staff, our guest director **Dean Anthony**, and our fantastic students. The commission of *Mayo* was made possible through the Domenic J. Pellicciotti Composition Prize, founded by Dr. Gary C. Jaquay to honor his life partner Dominic J. Pellicciotti, an ardent fan of opera. The award seeks to encourage and acknowledge the creation of new opera works that explore themes related to social justice, diversity, equity and/or inclusion.



The rebooting of the **Crane International Piano Festival**, led by **Dr. Young-Ah Tak**, went so wonderfully in the summer of 2019, Mountain Lake PBS produced [this piece](#) about the program. We look forward to continuing this summer opportunity for young pianists.

The Potsdam Clarinet Summit brought featured artists **Joshua Anderson** (l) from Reno, NV and **Michael Lowenstern** (r) from Brooklyn, NY to the Crane School to perform and conduct master



classes with Crane students. Music Education students took advantage of a panel discussion with Crane clarinet alumni sharing their experiences in the classroom in a roundtable discussion moderated by **Melinde Poupore** ('79). There were also two presentations of special interest to Crane Music Business majors and minors, one by Crane alumnus **Rebecca Scholldorf** ('15) of DANSR/Vandoren and the other by **Korinne Smith** with Eastman Winds. In addition, there were displays from Selmer, Yamaha, Buffet, Vandoren, North Country Winds, Camco and more with the latest gear/equipment for students to try out and explore.

We were grateful for Cycle Adirondack for the shout-out to the **Crane Irish Ensemble**, led by **Dr. Shelly Tramposh**. C.A.'s 2019 Harvester ride through St. Lawrence County was run in conjunction with the annual Fight Hunger 5K, benefiting GardenShare, a locally led nonprofit seeking to end hunger and strengthen food security in northern



New York. The Irish Ensemble provided live music for the event. The 2019 ride was hosted at Fobare's Fruits, a family owned orchard in Rensselaer Falls, and featured multiple distance options around St. Lawrence County with fall sites, color, and food.

Alumni News

Jon Dowd '15 (Music Performance and Music Education) recently accepted a position as the trombonist for the first national tour of *The Spongebob Musical*. The tour opened in Schenectady, NY on September 22, continued around the entire country in cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, Las Vegas, Houston, Dallas, San Francisco, and much more. While at Crane, Jon was a student of Dr. Mark Hartman. Since his time at Crane, Jon has earned his MM in trombone performance from the University of North Texas and has traveled extensively performing with other tours in venues throughout the United States and Australia.



Tim MacDuff (14) is the newest member of the Quapaw Quartet. Tim studied with Shelly Tramposh at the Crane School of Music, and then headed off to Houston, earning his master's from Rice University, where he studied with James Dunham. He recently received his doctoral degree from the University of Maryland, working with Katherine Murdock. His dissertation focuses on the relationship between music and the written word. He is also a member of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, who featured [a video](#) about him on their Facebook page in the fall.

Renée Fleming ('81) received Research!America's Isadore Rosenfeld Award for Impact on Public Opinion for her commitment to research advocacy at the intersection between music, the brain, and wellness. The award is presented annually to individuals who work to effectively deliver medical or other health-related research advocacy messages to the public. Ms. Fleming is the Artistic Advisor-at-Large to The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where she has spearheaded the Sound Health Initiative, a collaboration with the National Institutes of Health in association with the National Endowment for the Arts. Ms. Fleming was also to have launched the new Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS program as part of the 2020 Aspen Music Festival and School with co-artistic director Patrick Summers. In addition to being an alum of Crane, Renée is an alum of the Aspen Music Festival and School, saying, "I feel just as lucky to have the chance to return to this beautiful place and share all I've learned in the intervening years with the best emerging talent in opera." But most importantly, Renée appeared on the "Not My Job" portion of the radio show *Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me* in October, and had to answer questions about *Baby Shark*. Listen to how she did [here](#).



Sure Huntington Beach music teacher **James Cahill** ('10) is a great teacher, but this fall lots of other people found that out when James was among those featured on an [episode of *The Kelly Clarkson Show*](#) in a segment honoring music teachers. If you want to skip to James' "testimonial" go to: 9:43.

Many congratulations to mezzo-soprano **Katherine Beck** (12), who is one of a small number of performers accepted into [The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center](#) for its 2020/21 Ensemble. The Ryan Opera Center is the professional artist-development program for Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the ensemble is comprised of one pianist and eleven singers who are selected from some 400 who audition annually), Here's the entire group, both new and returning students, with staff. (Katie is conveniently standing dead center.)
(Photo: Jaclyn Simpson)



Crane alum **Nick Leonard** (16, Music Business, clarinet) was featured on the pages of the Potsdam website in a tribute to SUNY Potsdam professor Dr. Ed Portugal's "note to self" exercise. Find out what that has to do with Nick's new job at Disney Theatrical Group, and the steps he took to get there at <https://bit.ly/2NgH520>.



Kenneth Zagare (05) took his Select Choir to Radio City Music Hall in November - and not to just sit in the audience, but to perform. Their story was featured on [local TV news](#). Kenneth is the choral director at Malverne (NY) High School, where he directs the Select Choir and Mixed Chorus, teaches AP music theory, and is the Musical Co-Director.

Ryan Lupka ('15) was appointed in 2018 as Assistant Conductor and member of the founding faculty of the New York All-City High School Latin Ensemble, a thirty-seven-piece big band consisting of public school students from all five boroughs of NYC and dedicated to honoring the musical traditions of the New York City Palladium era, as well as the traditional and contemporary styles of several cultures across Latin America. Along with the other faculty members, Ryan has presented and taught at several seminars and workshops on the performing and teaching of Afro-Cuban music. The NY ACHS Latin Ensemble performed at the 2019 NYSSMA Winter Conference.



Since graduating from Crane, Ryan has been teaching in the New York City public schools, where he taught music in a special education school before his current position as a band director in Queens. He credits his foundational experiences with Latin music to his time at Crane, when he performed, toured, and recorded as a vocalist with the Crane Latin Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Marsha Baxter and Dr. Peter McCoy. He also received his MA in Music and Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, where he performed as a percussionist and vocalist with the Teachers College Latin American Music Project. In addition to his work in Latin music, Ryan has presented at professional development seminars in NYC on topics of music and the arts in special education and adaptive instrument technologies for students with disabilities.



Jamie Scotto ('10) and **John Lynd** ('13) are members of the Brooklyn-based Funkrust Brass Band, a 20-piece post-apocalyptic brass band playing original disco punk music with megaphone vocals. Funkrust celebrated the release of an EP and video series entitled *Bones and Burning!* with a release show in November at the Footlight in Ridgewood, Queens.

In November, **Dr. Deborah Massell** devoted a Saturday to a Voice Alumni Q&A for Crane students, with vocal alumni in Wakefield Hall. All shared their experiences since graduating and answered many of those real-world questions students have. The group included:

- Mezzo-soprano **Katie Beck** (12), also a graduate of USC, member of Young Artist Programs at Santa Fe Opera, Arizona Opera, member of the Tanglewood summer vocal artist program, and about to join the professional artist-development program at the Chicago Lyric Opera.
- Cabaret singer and actress **Melissa Becker** (13), who currently performs with NYC's premier song & dance variety show, Guilty Pleasures Cabaret, and has appeared at The Cutting Room, Don't Tell Mama, The Duplex Cabaret, The Triad, 54 Below, and in the Netflix show *Orange is the New Black*.
- Soprano **D'Nasya Jordan** (15), who recently performed in *Hairspray* as Little Inez on Symphony of the Seas Cruise Line and also understudied Deloris Van Cartier on the International Asia tour of *Sister Act*, in addition to being a cabaret, pop, musical theater, and professional backup singer.
- Tenor **Sean Fahy** ('18), who recently joined the graduate program at Texas Christian University on a full fellowship.
- Soprano **Melanie Shank** ('16), who serves as the Assistant to the Vice President of Lincoln Center Concert Halls and Operations, while performing all over East coast, particularly championing the work of living composers.
- Baritone and composer **Shavon Lloyd** (19), who is the current Music Director at the Indian River (NY) school system.
- Coloratura soprano **Elizabeth Mirandi** (17), who sings all over New York City with many professional choirs and opera companies as well as with the new-music focused OS Ensemble.
- Soprano **Helena Waterous** (17), a recent graduate of Indiana University's prestigious Jacobs School of Music.

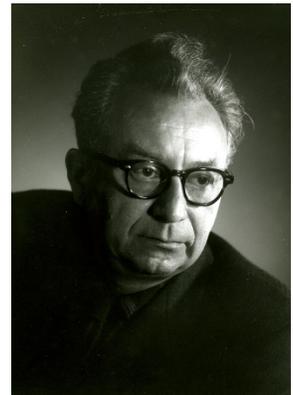
In December, the 2019 New York All-State Mixed Chorus performed **Martin Banner's** ('73) edition of Johann Michael Haydn's *Dicite in Gentibus* at the NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester. The choir was conducted by Jerry Blackstone.

Each year Musical America celebrates their *Top 30 Musical America Professionals of the Year*, and once again, the Crane School of Music is represented. **Melissa Wegner** (03), the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions, is lauded for the hundreds of auditions she hears each year as well as the impact the program she oversees has on young singers. We certainly know about her impact on young singers at Crane as she regularly returns to campus to give masterclasses to our vocal students.



Faculty News

Crane faculty member **David Mathie's** article about Vincent Persichetti's *The Pleiades* (for trumpet, strings and chorus) was recently published in the International Trumpet Guild journal. *The Pleiades* was commissioned by Crane in honor of the legendary Dean of Crane, **Helen Hosmer**, and premiered by Crane faculty member (and David's father), **Gordon Mathie**, at the Crane spring festival in 1968. This photo of Persichetti was taken at Crane while he was here for the premiere in May 1968, and it hangs in the photo gallery outside of Hosmer Hall.



Crane's instrument technician **Miles DeCastro** went to Northern Vermont University to present a clinic entitled *Put a Cork in It!* at the Vermont Music Educators Association Conference in October. The clinic was all about re-corking instruments.

Crane musicologist **Erin Brooks** presented her research at several conferences domestic and international in the summer and early fall. In May, Dr. Brooks gave a paper on music played on silent film sets at New York University's annual *Music and the Moving Image Conference*. In June, she attended a conference entitled *Cities in Conflict: Urban Space and Violence* at University College Cork, in Ireland, where she presented research on sound in 19th century Paris. Dr. Brooks also gave papers on French music at the First World War Network conference in Edinburgh and on opera houses and 21st century protest movements at the Transnational Opera Studies conference held in Paris. Then in the fall, Dr. Brooks traveled to Manchester to attend the annual conference of the Royal Musical Association. For a panel on *Sounding Trauma in the Long Nineteenth Century: Gendered Narratives in the US, UK and France*, she presented research on the connections between gender, sonic violence, and early conceptions of trauma in late 19th-century Paris.

Music Business professor **Marc Ernesti** contributed "*Hear Me Talkin' To Ya*": *Branding in Music, Music in Branding*. to *Musik und Straße*. The article charts how branding strategies, in all but name, have in fact pervaded music since the emancipation of public concert life in the eighteenth century. The article seeks out a small range of music-economic case studies, analyses the patterns underlying them, and aims to offer a critical understanding of the forms that branding in music takes.

In October, two of Crane's keyboard faculty participated in the first ever New York State Music Teachers Association Mini Pedagogy Symposium. **Dr. Tracy Lipke-Perry** (left), Assistant Professor of Keyboard, presented a poster, *Effect of Attentional Focus on Pedaling: Initial Observations*, and **Dr. Kathryn Sherman** (right), Associate Professor of Piano Pedagogy, presented a lightning talk on *Sight Reading as a Physical Skill?* Dr. Lipke-Perry also coordinated the day's state-level and MTNA competitions, serving as Vice-President for Competitions in NYSMTA.





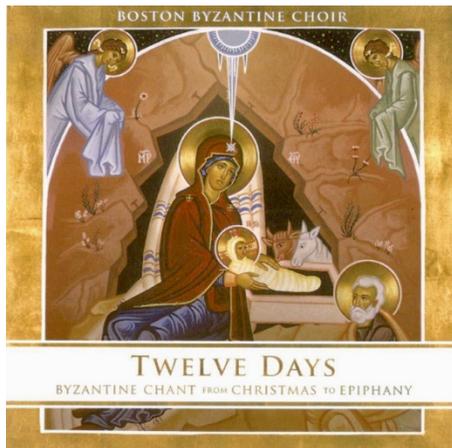
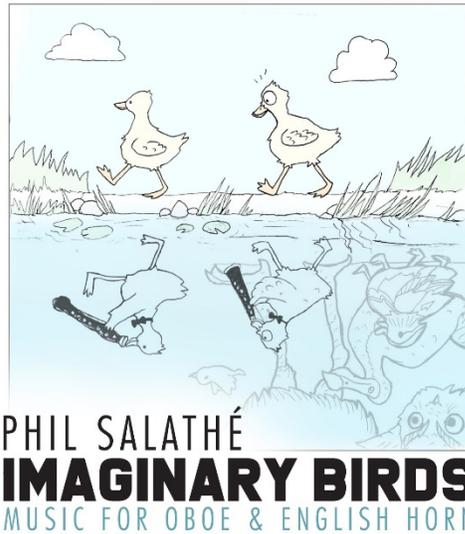
Also in October, Crane's orchestra director, Ching-Chun Lai, visited Liverpool (NY) High School to work with LHS Symphonic Orchestra students and speak with them about the music programs at the Crane School.

Crane piano professor **Young-Ah Tak** released an [all-Beethoven CD](#) on the Steinway & Sons label. The CD, which includes Ludwig's Op. 57 (*Appassionata*), Op. 31 no. 3, and op 10 No. 2 piano sonatas, is available physically on CD and via digital download/streaming.



Theory professor **Michael Vitalino** went to Columbus, Ohio to present a paper during the *Music & Disability Interest Group* session at the annual Society for Music Theory conference. Dr. Vitalino's paper outlined alternate methods of aural skills instruction/evaluation, utilizing his background in vocal pedagogy, in order to create greater accessibility for students.

Dr. Phil Salathé's composition, *Don't Let Your Chops Freeze*, for trumpet and piano (left hand), was selected by the College Music Society for performance at their Northeast 2020 Conference at Temple University's Boyer College of Music. The piece was premiered at Crane in 2018 by trumpeter/pianist Gene V. Baker, for whom it was written. And over the summer, Dr. Salathé's oboe and guitar arrangement of Teng Yu-hsien's *Expecting the Spring Breeze* was featured at a series of five concerts in China as part of a tour by the Hornyanszky-Römer duo. The piece appears on Phil's CD *Imaginary Birds*, which was picked by Ted Gioia as an honorable mention on his "[The 100 Best Recordings of 2019](#)" blog post.



The new CD *Twelve Days: Byzantine Chant from Christmas to Epiphany* includes chant compositions by Crane professor **Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis**, who also serves as the head cantor at the St. Olympia Orthodox Church in Potsdam. The music was also heard in concert in Boston in December with the group which recorded the CD, the Cambridge-based Boston Byzantine Choir, directed by Charles Marge.

Student News

Two Crane School of Music Business seniors were featured on SUNY Potsdam's website.

Paul Dougall ('20) is completing a degree in Music Business, as well as two separate degrees in Mathematics as part of the Department of Mathematics' BA / MA program—a unique opportunity for highly motivated students to graduate with both bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics at the same time. Over the summer he landed an internship at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center where he was able to combine his passion for both disciplines. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2BrCYvf>



Kelley DiPasquale (20) presented her research on Binaural Recording at a poster session at the U.S. convention of the Audio Engineering Society, in the Javits Center in NYC. She did this in the midst of her internship, serving as an Audio Engineer for the Audio Recording Engineer Practicum at the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity in Alberta, Canada. Read more at <https://bit.ly/3aEzVir>.



During the fall semester's Senior Colloquium for the Presidential Scholars Program, three Crane students gave final presentations. Their projects highlighted both the breadth of work in Crane and the terrific possibilities available through the Presidential Scholars program. Pictured, left to right:

- **Emily Berardicelli** (Music Education) *Integrating Indian Classical Music into Western Instrumental Classrooms* (faculty mentor: Dr. Robert Docker)
- **Casey Cassel** (Music Education) *Less Pain, More Music: Mitigating Injury in the String Orchestra Classroom* (faculty mentor: Dr. Sarah Hersh)
- **Alexa Mani** (Music Business, Musical Studies) *Hip hop, Gender, Media, and Representation* (faculty mentor: Dr. Erin Brooks)



Click [here](#) for more on the Presidential Scholars program at SUNY Potsdam.