



## Summer 2019 News

### School News

On June 13, SUNY Potsdam and the Crane School of Music awarded **Bernie Williams**—longtime New York Yankee centerfielder and Latin Grammy-nominated musician—with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree during a special ceremony at the Yamaha Piano Salon in New York City. Here is **President Dr. Kristen Esterberg** with Dr. Williams. After his playing career, Williams attended SUNY Purchase and the Manhattan School of Music, where he earned his undergraduate music degree in Classical Guitar.



## Crane Abroad

From May 19 to 31, a group of 16 current and former Crane students traveled to South America for an epic journey through the Andes in Peru with **Dr. Jeffrey Francom**, coordinator of the choral area at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music. They started by learning traditional Andean music at a workshop in Calca, Peru—playing panflutes and singing music in the traditional Quecha language.

Then they embarked on a seven-day backpacking trip along the Salkantay and Inca Trails, an arduous trek through high mountain passes where they visited mountain lakes, slept in tents at high-altitude camps, walked on a glacier, traveled through the Andean jungle and visited beautiful Inca ruins. The physically and mentally demanding travel course ended in Machu Picchu, an Incan city set high in the Andes Mountains, above the Urubamba River valley.



We have some wonderful pictures to share thanks to photographer Jason Hunter, who joined the group.

While some traveled southwest, some traveled east: at about the same time as these students were in Peru, a group of string students were in Ireland working with **Dr. Shelly Tramposh** and local experts in fiddling technique.

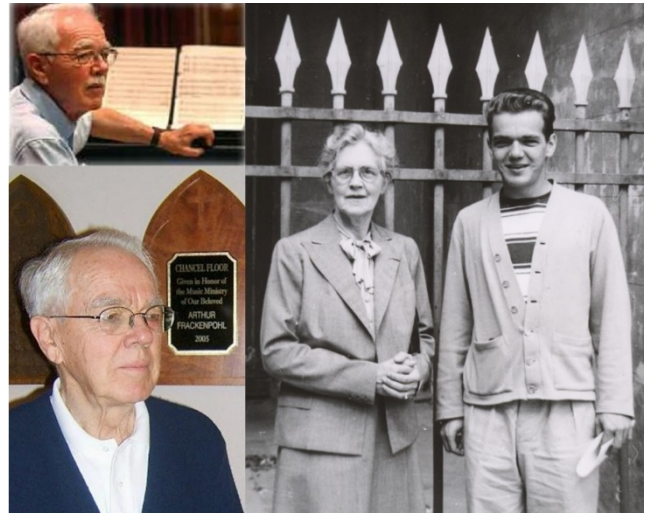
Plans are already afoot for a summer 2020 choral trip to Italy and a return to Ireland by Dr. Tramposh and string students.





## Arthur Frackenpohl (1924- 2019)

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Professor Emeritus Arthur Frackenpohl, on Saturday, June 8 at the age of 95. Dr. Frackenpohl 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., meaning his influence and importance to the school extended nearly seven decades. Art held bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastman and a doctoral degree from McGill. 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.



The Crane family extends our deepest condolences to Art's wife Mary Ellen, a 1954 graduate of Crane, and to their children and extended family. He was a faculty member known, admired, and remembered by generations of Crane students. Above are several pictures of Art, including one from 1950 with Nadia Boulanger at Fontainebleau, France. To the right is a picture from 2014, when Art turned 90, with members of the Frackenpohl Honors Brass Quintet from that year.

On October 4, 2019, the Crane School hosted a memorial concert featuring students and faculty performing Art's music. Dean Michael Sitton noted, "Art Frackenpohl's legacy as a composer and arranger belongs to musicians everywhere, but his legacy as a member of the Crane faculty is a special and very personal one."

## Performance Department News

On March 19th, the **Crane Latin Ensemble**, directed by **Peter McCoy** in collaboration with **Denis Martin, Rob Zolner, Thomas Grabowski, Douglas McKinney, Cynthia DuFault**, featured dancer Brooklyn Collier, project manager Tmar Bowen, and approximately a dozen volunteers, recorded a video of the amazing Enrique Martinez and José Madera chart, *Quando Suenan los Cueros*. Soloists were Jared Gonzalez (trombone), Brendan Leigh (bongos), Phil Vona (congas), and Joey Small (timbales). The finished project came out this summer and is available at <https://youtu.be/1VDChkLPio>. The Crane Latin Ensemble is a 24-member collegiate ensemble dedicated to promoting Afro-Cuban and other Latin American dance music. The group has toured in México, Canada, and Cuba, and will travel to Puerto Rico to participate in a relief and recovery project in Spring 2020.



## Alumni News

The **Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar** returned to Potsdam led by **Stephanie Blythe** ('92) and Alan Smith. The Executive Director of Fall Island, **David Williams** ('87), the Assistant Director, **Daniel Mertzlufft** ('15), and the Internship Director, **Katrina Sheats** ('17, '18M), are also Crane alumni. This year's special guest was composer **John Musto**, and, as always, the event centered around the vocal and pianist Fellows. For more about the Festival see <http://fallisland.org/>.

It is with great pride that we also pass along the news that **Stephanie Blythe** ('92) has been awarded the 2019 Maria Callas Debut Artist of the Year Award by The Dallas Opera. The award is “given to a single performer each season in recognition of a particularly memorable and outstanding company debut.” Stephanie was singled out for her “saucy, scene-stealing portrayal of Mistress Quickly” in the Dallas Opera’s critically-acclaimed spring production of Verdi’s *Falstaff*. Blythe was also recently named the next Artistic Director of the Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard College Conservatory of Music—a position Ms. Blythe assumed in July.



**Dr. Benjamin Firer** (BME 10') has recently been appointed Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and conductor for the Dubuque Symphony Youth Orchestra. He currently serves as Orchestra Director and Professor of Conducting at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. A student of Dr. Mark Hartman, Ben was the inaugural trombonist with the Frackenhohl Honors Brass Quintet and was the recipient of the SUNY Thayer Fellowship in the Arts.

After graduating Crane, Ben received his MM at Yale University and completed his DMA in Orchestral Conducting at Northwestern University.

Recent Crane Alum, **Shavon Lloyd** (19), was announced as the winner of the Orpheus Chamber Singers' inaugural student composition competition. Shavon will be commissioned to write a new work for the Dallas, Texas-based chorus for their March 7, 2020 concert. Shavon began his teaching career at t Indian River High School this fall.



This year's alumni awards, presented during **Reunion Weekend 2019**, including three Crane alumni who we congratulate.

**Kathryn Gigliotti** '09 (double major in Performance and Music Business) was one of the Rising Star Award winners. Kathie has worked in administrative positions with the Sarasota Opera, Albany Symphony Orchestra, and the Albany Law School, and is currently the Director of Events for the University of Houston Law Center.

**Michael Struzik** '88 (Music Education) was awarded the Helen M. Hosmer Excellence in Music Teaching Award. Mike teaches at Brighton High School (Rochester), directing the wind ensemble, jazz band, and symphonic band, in addition to other classes. He has served as the executive director of NYSBDA and as the brass chairperson for NYSSMA, as well as president of the Monroe County School Music Association.

**Scott Goodman** '79 (Music Education) was the Minerva Award winner. For three decades Scott was the President and then CEO of Samson Technologies, until he established the audio technology Zoom company (where he is CEO). Scott was instrumental in developing the Crane Institute of Music Business in the late 1990s, and he has continued to be involved with Crane's Music Business



program in a variety of ways. To the left is a picture of SUNY Potsdam **Dr. Kristen Esterberg**, **Dr. Michael Sitton**, Dean of the Crane School of Music, and **Scott Goodman** at a special alumni event at Zoom's corporate headquarters in Hauppauge, New York last October.



When **André Previn** passed away this past February, he was writing a monodrama to a libretto by Tom Stoppard about Odysseus' wife, Penelope. Previn's longtime editor and copyist, David Fetherolf, completed the score for *Penelope*, which had its world première at the Tanglewood Festival on July 24, in an arrangement for the soprano (and Crane alum) **Renée Fleming** (81), the Emerson String Quartet, the pianist Simone Dinnerstein, and the actress Uma Thurman, who narrates some passages. Ms. Fleming also performed the piece at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago in late July. Below is Ms. Fleming with David Fetherolf and Uma Thurman at Tanglewood, and a picture from the Chicago performance with actor Jennifer Ehle (on the right).



Crane Clarinet professors **Julianne Kirk Doyle** and **Raphael Sanders** ran into quite a few Crane alumni at the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest in Knoxville, Tennessee this summer. Here is Professor Kirk Doyle with two of those folks: **Paige Carter** (19), now working for Buffet Crampon, and **Rebecca Scholldorf** (15), who works at DANSR/Vandoren.





Mezzo-soprano **Luana Arabadgi** (16, vocal performance and music business) joined Chicago Summer Opera singing the role of Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare* and Lucretia in scenes of *The Rape of Lucretia*. On the arts administration side, Luana has worked for the Florida Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, and Chicago Summer Opera. She currently lives in Chicago with her husband, and studies voice with W. Stephen Smith.

**Brian Dougherty** (06) was featured in the Alumni Spotlight at SUNY Potsdam in August.



When the lead singer of the Foo Fighters, Dave Grohl, broke his foot back in 2015, his team called up SUNY Potsdam alumnus Brian Dougherty '06 for help.

Despite the injury, Grohl planned on performing on stage, and he wanted to sit on a “Game of Thrones”-inspired guitar seat, as in, a seat made out of electric guitars! The problem was that the throne, made



out of metal, was going to produce interference for the band's Sennheiser microphones. Dougherty, a product manager at Sennheiser at the time, was used to coming up with wireless solutions for his clients, and the Foo Fighters were no different. He took his knowledge of Sennheiser wireless technology and figured out a way to integrate microphones into the throne of guitars.

Ever since graduating from SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music back in 2006, Dougherty has found great success in the music business industry. He landed a job at Samson Technologies right after graduation and was later hired at Sennheiser—one of the biggest names in the music industry.

Dougherty studied music education for the majority of his time at Crane, but then switched his focus to music business. "It was when the SUNY Potsdam music business program was just starting up, so I'm the only person to actually graduate with this specific degree. It was essentially the standard liberal arts business administration degree with a ton of extra music credits," he said.

With mentors like Carol "Kickie" Britt '69 & '74, the former executive director for the Crane Institute for Music Business, and James J. Petercsak, a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor who taught percussion—SUNY Potsdam was the perfect springboard to Dougherty's career. "The Crane School of Music is such a highly regarded music school, you're getting top-notch education that employers respect, but you're getting it with a small group of people," he said. "You are getting a lot more one-on-one time with your professors and a lot more time integrating with other students and learning from them as well."

Despite the change to music business, his music education background has continued to influence his career. "I essentially spent the majority of my Potsdam career learning to be a teacher. Although I ended up not being a teacher, I taught high school marching band for 10 years. It's something that's definitely helped me out in my career—to be very comfortable in front of a crowd or in front of a camera and being able to speak clearly," he said.

Dougherty found early success at the consumer and professional audio product manufacturer, Samson Technologies—his first job after graduating from SUNY Potsdam. After an internship with Samson his senior year, they offered him a full-time position that he started just days after commencement. He wore many hats in that role and helped to launch an artist relations program. "I worked with a lot of artists, running different events and artist signings," he said. "I also taught myself how to do live concert photography and they used my photos in ads or product design work. It was a great first company to work for! It allowed me to learn a lot and take the initiative to do a lot of different things."

In that role, he worked as Samson's trade show manager, representing the company at the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Show. Dougherty has attended the NAMM Show every year for the past 15 years, first as a Crane student, then as an employee at Samson and now while working at Sennheiser, which produces high fidelity products like microphones and headphones. "Every year that I was at Samson and attending the NAMM Show, we had SUNY Potsdam students working with us. And when I came to Sennheiser I reached out to Kickie Britt, and I said, 'Hey, I'm at Sennheiser now. Since I'm a Potsdam grad, I would love to open up the company to be able to have Potsdam students here as well. We started getting two interns in 2014,'" Dougherty said.

In his initial role at Sennheiser, Dougherty provided high-level tech support for Sennheiser clients that included ABC, FOX, WWE and artists like Beyonce. "I got to go to New Jersey when Beyonce and Jay-Z

were doing their first 'On the Run' tour. They were doing their production rehearsals and I got to go there, demo the system for them, the new high-end wireless Sennheiser technology, and teach their staff how to use it," Dougherty said.

Another time, Dougherty was sent to the Universal Theme Parks in Florida and California to build wireless microphone systems for a ride at each park. With tunnels, metal and other interference, he placed antennas in key areas throughout the ride to avoid breaks and pops in the signal. "I was taking their design specifications, and their needs, and then trying to fit our Sennheiser product into it. I wasn't creating a unique product, it was more taking a situation where wireless shouldn't be working and then my job was to figure out how to get it to work," he said.

And then there was Kayne West. Dougherty personally etched Sennheiser microphones for West to hurl off the stage—sailing through the air to the outstretched arms of his fans at live shows. Dougherty had heard that West was throwing microphones to his fans and he reached out to his tour manager. "I said, 'Hey, we can laser etch these mics. What better way for his fans to commemorate the night? Not only do you catch the mic, but it has the tour, the date and the city right there, laser etched on the mic,'" Dougherty said.

Dougherty now has a new role at Sennheiser, working strictly in sales as a key account manager. With more than \$796 million in global sales in 2018, he oversees significant markets for the company—handling all sales of Sennheiser professional products on Amazon.com within the U.S. and Canada. He's now building a global presence on Amazon.com, helping to sell products from the Sennheiser Pro Division around the world.

As part of his job, he also offers large educational classes to Sennheiser employees, teaching sales techniques about their products. While he communicates with his colleagues and clients, Dougherty leans on his former music education background from Crane, and the public speaking course he took with Associate Professor Dr. John Youngblood. "He was a professor at SUNY Potsdam that really stuck out, and really helped me with my career as a student," Dougherty said.

In his free time, Dougherty does a lot of volunteer work with Sennheiser, cooking at the local soup kitchen, participating in a yearly walk to end homelessness, and sponsoring a music program for the homeless and at-risk youth. On his own, he created a fundraiser in memory of his friend's mother. "Every year I do an eBay auction in honor of my friend's mother who passed away from an inoperable brain tumor. I try to gather up some items from artists I know. All the money goes to the American Brain Tumor Association," he said.

*Article by Jason Hunter*

## Faculty News



The summer Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, NC included a concert of Crane faculty composer **Gregory Wanamaker's** music on their Artist Spotlight Series in June. The concert featured five of his recent chamber works for winds and piano, including the United States Premiere of *Vigil*. Also at Piccolo Spoleto, performing a cabaret, was Crane alum **Dimitri Pittas** ('99) who was joined by Leah Edwards Pittas.

Also in June, Crane faculty member and composer **Jerod Sommerfeldt** performed at the Saranac Lake, NY Electronic Music Summit.



This summer **Lauren Becker** (on the right) spent time teaching at the Kendall Betts Horn Camp in Lyman, NH. Recent Crane alum **Isabella Kolasinski** (19, center) attended the first week and performed as a soloist in the final participant recital. Isabella will be pursuing a MM in Horn Performance at the University of Michigan in the fall, studying horn with Potsdam native Adam Unsworth. Another Crane alumna, **Susan Zollers** ('86, on left), also attended the first session. She was a student of **Roy Schaberg**.



Associate Dean **David Heuser's** orchestra overture *A Screaming Comes Across the Sky* was included as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Texas Music Festival (TMF) in Houston, Texas in June. TMF commissioned the work in 2005, and revisited the piece as part of its anniversary celebrations this year. The TMF orchestra, comprised of undergraduate and graduate college music students from around the globe who are chosen through a competitive audition process, was led by conductor Carl St. Clair, who premiered the work in 2005. In a review of the premiere the Houston Chronicle praised the piece, calling it "All-American music at its most dynamic and visceral." *A Screaming Comes Across the Sky* has won several awards including the Columbia Orchestra's American Composer Competition, and a wind ensemble version was premiered by **Brian Doyle** and the Crane Wind Ensemble in October 2018.



## Student News

**Tyler Mazone** ('21, Composition) was one of three composers selected to participate in the 2019 National Band Association's Young Composer & Young Conductor Mentor Project in Washington, DC this summer. Below are some pictures of Tyler in action in Washington. Tyler's winning piece, *Symphony no. 3*, was performed along with other winning works, by the United States Air Force Band.



Professor **Donald George** sent along a picture of two Crane students, **Ben Johnson** ('22, Vocal Performance) and **Nick Rondinelli** ('22, Music Education), who spent some of the summer in Sant'Angelo, Vado, located in central Italy, participating in the Scuola Italia program for young opera singers. Crane regularly sends students to the prestigious program.

