

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ON THE MOVE! *Newsletter*

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Director
- 2 Fall 2023 Senior Recitals
- 2 Jazz Lines
- 2 Wind Symphony
- 3 Salon Series
- 3 Shepherd Symphonic Band
- 4 Alumni Notes
- 5 Friends of Music 2023-2024
Scott Beard Intern
- 5 Student News
- 6 Community Music News
- 8 Faculty Notes
- 10 Ram Band 2023
- 10 Ram Band Reunion 2023
- 11 Honor Music Festival 2024
- 11 Choral Notes
- 12 Scotland 2024



Dear School of Music Community,

With another academic year well underway, we take a moment from our busy schedules to say hello and send out our best wishes. Amid changes in the University, it is comforting to witness the continued success of our students and faculty. This fall, we were excited to see our ensembles blossom as we welcomed a large class of freshmen into the School of Music. We are also celebrating the progress of our juniors and seniors with a series of recitals this fall. Additionally, the Ram Band is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a special show that honors the traditions of excellence, pride, and commitment to the marching arts as demonstrated by Shepherd alumni for five decades. From small, everyday victories in the practice rooms to great achievements on the stage, the School of Music continues to grow each year. In the pages that follow, you are invited to join our students, alumni, and faculty in celebrating the many wonderful things they do each and every day.

We look forward to sharing the artistry of our faculty and guests during the 2023-2024 Shepherd Salon Series. In January 2024, we are hosting the Honor Music Festival for outstanding high school musicians in the four-state area. Our students and faculty are preparing to return to international travel with a concert tour of Scotland in May 2024. During this trip, we will enjoy the great performances of our student ensembles, discover new music from our student composers, launch a new crop of music educators and performers, and connect with the Scottish culture, all while carrying on the outstanding music traditions that have been a part of Shepherd University for so many years.

Thank you so much for being a part of our School of Music family. We look forward to seeing you at the next concert! ■

—Scott Hippensteel, D.M.A.
Interim Director, School of Music

School of Music

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Shepherdstown, WV 25443
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Fall 2023 Senior Recitals

Benjamin Smith, Voice Recital

Sunday, September 10 at 3:00 p.m.
W. H. Shipley Recital Hall

Natalie McGeachy, Clarinet Recital

Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m.
W. H. Shipley Recital Hall

Kaitlyn Warren, Piano Recital

Sunday, October 22 at 3:00 p.m.
W. H. Shipley Recital Hall

Jacob Miner, Saxophone Recital

Sunday, October 22 at 5:00 p.m.
W. H. Shipley Recital Hall

Jonathan Zutt, Percussion Recital

Sunday, October 29 at 3:00 p.m.
McCoy Rehearsal Hall

Zoey Breakall, Voice Recital

Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m.
W. H. Shipley Recital Hall

Tristan Snyder, Trombone Recital

Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m.
W. H. Shipley Recital Hall

Jacob Routzhan, Guitar Recital

Sunday, November 12 at 5:00 p.m.
W. H. Shipley Recital Hall

Senior recitals are free and open
to the public.



Jazz Lines

The School of Music's jazz area had several exciting offerings this semester! We kicked things off by recording a live gig with a faculty group as part of the Shepherd Salon Series. The group included Peter Heiss, Robert Sykes, Kevin Pace, Kelton Norris, and Dr. Kurtis Adams. Dr. Stefan Swanson and Anthony Stoika were on hand as the evening's live recording engineers. Stay tuned for information on the release of the live recording.

On October 20, the Shepherd University Jazz Ensemble presented Duke Ellington's *Black, Brown, and Beige* masterwork. Premiered in 1943, the work is an extended-tone poem depicting the African American experience in North America. In classic Ellington style, the piece has many beautiful musical colors and distinct "characters" that evoke imagery in the listeners' imagination.

Wind Symphony

The Shepherd University Wind Symphony will perform its annual Student Conductor Concert on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the Frank Arts Center Theater. The concert will feature the works of five students in a variety of selections. Savannah Hodges will conduct "Sleep," a beautiful choral arrangement by Eric Whitacre. Emily McMoran will lead the band through an energetic overture by Dakota Pederson titled "Ambush." Kate Warren will conduct an arrangement of Edward Grieg's "March of the Trolls," and Logan

Jackson will direct "Iron and Ice: A Viking Adventure" by Randall Standridge. Tristan Snyder will direct a two-part overture titled "Cumberland Cross" by Carl Strommen. Dr. Scott Hippensteel will open the concert with a traditional Sousa march, "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine," conduct a lovely arrangement of an organ piece, "Adoration" by Florence Price, and close the concert with the Scottish fantasy "Loch Ness" by Johan de Meij.

Salon Series

The 2023-2024 Shepherd Music Salon Series, sponsored by Jefferson Security Bank, kicked off on Thursday, September 7 with the Shepherd University Faculty Jazz Ensemble, featuring Dr. Kurtis Adams on saxophone, Peter Heiss on guitar, Robert Sykes on piano, Kevin Pace on bass, and Kelton Norris on drums. The ensemble performed a dynamic set of original music which was recorded live in the W.H. Shipley Recital Hall.

Classical Beats on Thursday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m. will feature the Sonic Escape duo of violinist Maria Kaneko Millar and flutist Shawn Wyckoff, a pair of Juilliard graduates whose blend of hyper-instrumentals, stories, moves, and original works was deemed “wonderfully imaginative... with a wide ranging, anything-goes sense of fun” by The Washington Post. In *Classical Beats*, the duo will offer up hyper-instrumental renditions of original works and creative covers for flute and violin, incorporating multi-tracked production and instrumentals and unfurling a symphony of sounds in real time.

On Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 7:30 p.m., Shepherd adjunct Robin Rhodes will present a solo bass recital with exclusively 21st-century works woven together with improvisations. The repertoire includes *Figment III* by Elliott Carter and original works by Robin Rhodes.

The Two Rivers Trio, Shepherd adjunct faculty bassoonist Richard Polonchak and his identical twin sons, string musicians Matthew and Michael, are the featured artists on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Formed in 1996, the ensemble first performed on Shepherd’s campus in 2001 for the discontinued Reynolds Hall Recital Series. The trio’s program will include one of the Mozart Serenades, a Haydn trio, The Beatles’ “Yesterday,” Morricone’s “Gabriel’s Oboe,” Brian Crain’s “Andantino,” some rags and waltzes, and perhaps end with Richard switching over to piano.

The Salon Series will close on Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. with Shepherd faculty Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, piano, and Andrea Diggs, flute, and Camilo Pérez-Mejía, cello, presenting a chamber music concert celebrating nature. The program includes “Vox Balaenae” (The Voice of the Whale) by George Crumb and “Voices of the Rainforest” by Spanish-America composer Elisenda Fábregas.

All Salon Series performances take place in the W. H. Shipley Recital Hall and are free and open to the public.

Stay tuned for updated information and additional events by visiting www.shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts. ■

Shepherd Symphonic Band

Do you miss performing? The Shepherd Symphonic Band is looking for interested wind and percussion musicians in the 2024 spring semester. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the McCoy Rehearsal Hall at the Frank Arts Center. Symphonic Band welcomes advanced musicians from local high schools, universities, and the community to make music as a true “communiversity” ensemble. Our first rehearsal will be held on January 11, 2024. No audition is required – just bring your instrument and enjoy performing great concert band repertoire with area musicians. The Symphonic Band is celebrating 10 years at Shepherd and is conducted by School of Music Interim Director Dr. Scott Hippensteel. The Symphonic Band concert will be on Friday, March 22, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in the Frank Arts Center Theater. If you have questions, please email Dr. Hippensteel at shippens@shepherd.edu.



Alumni Notes

Somewhere on the mountainside of rural Appalachia, amidst great trees and hip-deep snow drifts, the equal parts musical and mythical artist known as Mister Mae was born. Her earliest years were spent in the fresh outdoor air — hiking through the wilderness or chasing squirrels; and even when she was indoors practicing piano, the windows were wide open, and the family dog was sleeping nearby.



Mary Remsburg '16, the musical artist known as Mister Mae, shares her roots in her debut album, *Sounds Like Home*.

For Mister Mae, music was simply a part of her world — as natural as the fresh air. “There wasn’t a specific point or moment... music just was in our household,” she said. Growing up the youngest of five siblings and the daughter of a piano teacher, there were always melodies drifting through her childhood home.

Despite music’s involvement in her earliest memories, it wasn’t until she joined the Shenandoah Valley Children’s Choir that it began to sink in that music would become her career. “I knew I would play piano forever, but the choir really helped with theory and with

music analysis and music emotion,” said Mister Mae.

Like the wilderness she is drawn to, the writing process has been a natural calling for Mister Mae — the music born from what “just sounds right.” More quickly than she would realize, inventing melodies on a whim evolved into writing them down and composing thoughtful, emotional pieces that told artistic stories of her life. It seems fitting that her first album, *Sounds Like Home*, is a compilation of songs that she began writing at just 15 years old.

Aside from her upbringing and nature, a collaborative environment has been one of the largest influences on Mister Mae’s artistry. In 2012, she made a pivotal change and left the landscape of her childhood to attend Shepherd University. While the move would prove to be one of the most tremendous experiences of her life, it had a rocky start. Mister Mae explained that she suffered from acute homesickness. “I must have cried every night my freshman year. It’s hard because I was from this tiny town...When I came to Shepherd, I was so homesick because the whole atmosphere was different.”

But surrounded by practice rooms and fellow musicians, Mister Mae found something familiar in the new. “We spent so much time by ourselves to get good with our instruments,” she said. “Then for the rest of the time, you are always doing music with other people. So even though I was homesick, the School of Music was the place where I was truly like — ‘I feel like myself.’”

Throughout Mister Mae’s time at Shepherd, she was an accompanist and performer in numerous ensembles and recitals. While she spent countless hours learning music for her many engagements, Mister Mae never stopped composing. She would spend late nights in practice rooms with friends experimenting with ideas and harmonies. “As a musician, you rely a lot on the talent that other artists have worked for. I’ve written things, but then my next step is to reach out to people and ask them what they can do or want to do [with it]. The more you know someone, the more you can lean into their expertise,” she commented.

This album features multiple collaborators, including two Shepherd alumni: Will Lopez, mixing engineer with Dymaxion Recording Studios, and Sawyer Gaydon on percussion. “They’re not only amazing musicians but amazing people. That makes it really easy to work with them,” said Mister Mae.

With songs composed over a decade and featuring an array of talented artists, it’s no surprise that this album features multiple influences and elements. Classical, jazz, folk, Americana, and bluegrass are just a few styles woven into the tapestry. While it makes classifying her work into a single genre difficult, this amalgamation gives listeners a breath of fresh air. And though she has lived quite a life during the span of these compositions and moved hours away from the mountainside she grew up on, there’s no doubt that, for Mister Mae, this album sounds like home.

Sounds Like Home releases in October 2023. More information: @mistermae__ on Instagram | www.mistermaemusic.com



Friends Of Music 2023-2024 Scott Beard Intern

The Friends of Music's 2023-2024 Scott Beard Intern is junior music major **Gabriella "Gabby" Tedeschi**.

The Friends of Music created the internship two years ago in honor of Dr. Scott Beard, a much-beloved Shepherd professor of music, provost, and vice president for academic affairs, who passed away suddenly in the spring of 2021. At that time, Dr. Beard had recently joined the Friends' board of directors.

Developed in consultation with Dr. Kurtis Adams, interim dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, the internship is open to talented Shepherd music students who are interested in arts administration. This internship provides these students a chance to learn about managing and sustaining a professional arts organization by assisting the Friends' office on a regular basis while receiving a stipend. Duties include assistance with musician contracts, concert management, box office management, and records

management.

The internship was originally conceived to last for one semester but was expanded last year to cover the full academic year.

Last year, the internship was supported by a grant from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Detlev and Mary Ellen Preissler Fund for the Arts, Music, Design, and Nature. Support for the current year is provided by a new sponsor, the Marion Park Lewis Foundation for the Arts, based in Winchester, Virginia.

Gabby, who lives locally in Sharpsburg, Maryland, is specializing in music

performance at Shepherd with a focus on clarinet. She is the clarinet section leader for the current Ram Band's 50th anniversary season and the treasurer of the Xi Alpha chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity.

This past summer, she played in the Hagerstown, Maryland municipal band while working full-time at the Shepherdstown Walgreens store. After receiving her bachelor's degree, Gabby hopes to continue her education and obtain a master's degree in music performance.

Student News

Jackson Cohen scored a web series for the organization Enhance Arts Project.

Xavier Hersom won second place at the International Youth Music Competition with his piece "Chasing Dreams" for string orchestra.



Community Music News

Community Music at Shepherd continues to grow and is very excited to announce two concerts in fall 2023 at the Frank Arts Center Theater. The Shepherd Community Recorder Ensemble and the Shepherd Youth Chorus will perform on December 5 at 7:30 p.m. The Community Orchestra and Sinfonia: A Learning String Ensemble will perform on December 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased on www.shepherdrams.universitytickets.com.

ADULT PIANO FUN

Since 2017, adult group piano classes have been offered by the Shepherd Community Music School and have no deadlines, peer pressure, evaluations, or even a strict practice requirement. The goal of these classes is to learn something new while having fun, hence the name “AdULT PiAnO FuN.” AdULT PiAnO FuN students learn music notation, fun-to-play pieces, chordal accompaniment styles, technique, lead line playing, ensemble playing, sight-reading, and a bit of music theory and music history, all without the anxiety often associated with learning new skills. Recorded multi-instrument accompaniment tracks available with the keyboard textbooks make the

music sound more complicated and rewarding, including everything from well-known classical and traditional tunes to jazz, rock, and blues.

Many people listen to and enjoy music passively as a background to their lives but feel that actively participating in music-making is only for chosen few, the young, or the “talented.” AdULT PiAnO FuN’s mission is to make the health benefits, creativity, and joy of music-making accessible to everyone.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC

Our early childhood classes are fully enrolled, and we are thrilled to see the children participate enthusiastically in their classes. There are two early childhood music classes offered: Musical Discoveries for children ages 18 months to 3 years and Music for Preschoolers for children ages 4 to 6 years.

The children learn about different sounds of wood, metal, and shakers by playing small instruments and Orff xylophones. The movement games are especially popular with children, who learn from each other as they feel the flow of the music and sing together. Children and parents alike

enjoy singing about autumn and the stars as well as echo songs. Early childhood music classes are a wonderful way to learn to sing and to make music in a small group.

JAZZ WORKSHOP

Jazz Workshop is Shepherd’s newest community music class. This class is led by Kevin Pace, jazz bass adjunct faculty, with the assistance of Anthony Stoika, administrative assistant for the School of Music, and is open to all levels of improvisors. Students, ages middle school to adult, learn jazz standards, history, and improvisation. This is a jam session-style class that plays popular titles such as “Yesterdays,” “Bye, Bye, Blackbird,” and a class favorite “Sing Me Softly of the Blues.”

SHEPHERD COMMUNITY RECORDER ENSEMBLE

The Shepherd Community Recorder Ensemble debuted in fall 2022, and Community Music participants were excited for the opportunities this new ensemble presented. Many in Community Music were excited for opportunities to see a new type of ensemble. Andrea Diggs, the ensemble’s instructor, worked diligently to provide a professional and quality sound

for all to enjoy. Their concert debuted contemporary melodies followed by a traditional sound highlighting the recorder range. The ensemble returned in fall 2023 and will perform pieces such as the famous Portuguese melody, “Variations on La Folia,” and “Fantasias by Froberger” at the Community Music Concert on December 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. The ensemble is also taking their unique recorder sound to the Anna Mae Reedy Senior Center in Ranson, West Virginia, to provide a concert for Jefferson County’s seniors.

SHEPHERD YOUTH CHORUS

The Shepherd Youth Chorus now offers two levels: Level I for second to fourth grade students and Level II for fifth to tenth grade students. The chorus is a free and non-auditioned musical experience for students ages 8-16 in the West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia region. Sing, move, play, and create with us as we explore popular, folk, and choral music from around the world and close to home! Dr. Austin Showen arranges popular songs and uses various instruments, such as the Orff xylophone, to help students strengthen their instrumental and vocal skills. The students performed at the Frank Arts Center Theater on April 26, 2023 and plan to perform in the Community Music Concert on December 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA AND SINFONIA: A LEARNING STRING ENSEMBLE

The Shepherd Community Orchestra will have a separate concert on December 6, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Frank Arts Center Theater along with Sinfonia: A Learning String Ensemble, formerly known as the Junior String Ensemble. Sinfonia has become a collaborative music ensemble that brings intermediate string players for youth and adults. The instructor, Renee Shaw Nutwell, believed the ensemble name should reflect that all ages are welcome to join. Some Sinfonia members recently auditioned to play in the Community Orchestra and are now

playing in both ensembles to strengthen their musical skills further.

Camilo Pérez-Mejía, Community Orchestra conductor, is very excited to offer once again a brass and woodwind sound to this year’s concert. Andrea Diggs, flute adjunct professor, leads the brass and woodwinds section. The string sectional leaders are Heather Austin-Stone for Violin I, Renee Shaw Nutwell for Violin II, Kathy Gleason for Viola, and Camilo Pérez-Mejía for cello and bass. Together, the strings, brass, and woodwind players will perform Scenes and Dances from Manuel de Falla’s *The Three-Cornered Hat* and Claudio Monteverdi’s Toccata from *L’Orfeo*.

Numerous veteran string players continue to grace Shepherd’s McCoy Rehearsal Hall with delightful melodies while mentoring new string community members. Orchestra members include Shepherd’s adjunct string professors; community music instructors; instructors in home studios and local schools; Shepherd University School of Music students; local high school, and middle school students; and homeschool students. Each member must audition to be considered for the Shepherd Community Orchestra and attend full and sectional rehearsals. Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao and her piano student instructors launched the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) collegiate chapter for Shepherd University in fall 2022. Student members of the chapter hosted a studio recital as part of the Community Program Recital on December 10, 2022 and a spring recital on April 29, 2023. Both recitals were held in the Frank Arts Center W.H. Shipley Recital Hall. Student participants were from the studios of Susan Carpenter, Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, Savannah Williams, Sianna King, Kate Warren, and Annie Jackson.

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) collegiate chapters work to enhance students’ classroom studies by providing educational, musical, social, and professional experiences. The goal

of each chapter is to acquaint students with professional opportunities and career options in the music field while developing professional leadership skills. Currently, there are only piano students Shepherd’s MTNA collegiate chapter; however, all Shepherd music majors interested in studio teaching are welcome to join. Please contact Annie Jackson, chapter president, or Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, faculty advisor, for more information.

AUDITION PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Shepherd University’s School of Music faculty and community music instructors offered an audition preparation workshop on October 7 at the Frank Arts Center for middle and high school students preparing for auditions including all-state, all-county, musical theatre, university, competitions, solos, and ensembles. The workshop was led by Andrea Diggs, flute adjunct faculty, Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, coordinator of the keyboard program, Heather Austin-Stone, violin and viola adjunct faculty, and Daniel Morris, percussion instructor for Shepherd Community Music and Washington County Public Schools. Students spent the day learning the strengths and weaknesses of a good audition, sight reading skills, and ways to combat performance anxiety. A total of 23 homeschool students and students from Jefferson, Berkeley, and Washington counties attended.

COMING SOON

Community Music at Shepherd is excited to announce a children’s group guitar class for ages 7 to 11 in January 2024! This class will be led by guitar adjunct professor Peter Heiss. The class will offer students an opportunity to collaboratively work in groups to learn guitar playing techniques and explore guitar repertoire. The class will take place on Thursdays, 5-6 p.m., from January 11 to February 29.

Faculty Notes

This past spring, Shepherd adjunct professor **Andrea Diggs**, flute, performed music in a variety of different settings. In May, she played and sang with adjunct professor **Camilo Perez-Mejia**, cello, and Shepherd music alumni Heidi Stoika and Anthony Stoika, at The River House in Capon Bridge, West Virginia, as part of their new “Classical Under the Stars” Concert Series. In July and August, she played the role of Sister Margaretta in *The Sound of Music* at the Old Opera House in Charles Town, West Virginia, where shows were completely sold out the second weekend. Heidi Stoika, Anthony Stoika, and current Shepherd student Emily Ellmore were also part of the show, while Meg Patterson of the Shepherd University Foundation played Sister Berthe. One week later, Diggs played and sang in a chamber recital to a full house at the Shepherdstown Train Station along with Ray Irving, Mary McClain, Shepherd adjunct professor Tula Ruggiero, Richard Spittle, and Angela Murakami.

The **Robert Sykes** Jazz Trio performed “As Time Goes By” — classic melodies from the golden era of Hollywood — on

Sunday, October 1, at Happy Retreat in Charles Town, West Virginia. Featuring Shepherd faculty Robert Sykes, piano, Gary Montanaro, drums, and multi-instrumentalist Anita Thomas, the performance included “Moon River” from *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*, “Shadow of Your Smile” from *The Sandpiper*, “As Time Goes By,” from *Casablanca* and other favorites from the silver screen. The trio has performances scheduled at Happy Retreat on November 12 and December 17. Tickets may be purchased at www.HappyRetreat.org.

Over the summer, **Dr. Austin Showen** traveled to Birmingham, Alabama to teach at the University of Montevallo Kodály Institute. Over the course of two weeks, Dr. Showen taught Kodály Level II and III pedagogy, folk song research, musicianship, and popular music pedagogy to in-service music educators from around the South and directed the participant choir. This fall, Dr. Showen will travel to Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to present a workshop for music students titled “Folk Songs for the Future: Storytelling, Ritual, and Play.” Through the lens of ritual,

this presentation will feature hands-on experiences with musical storytelling and creative play to imagine how future generations might construct livable worlds through inclusive artistic practices.

Pianists Dr. Maggie Chen, associate professor at Ling-Tung University, Taiwan, and **Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao**, Shepherd University coordinator of keyboard studies and associate professor, combined forces to present a diverse and intriguing piano duo concert featuring John Adams’ monumental work “Hallelujah Junction” for two pianos on Sunday, August 20 in the Frank Arts Center McCoy Rehearsal Hall. Other works on the program included Carlos Guastavino’s “Tres Romances Argentinos” for two pianos; Taiwanese composer Ming-Hsiu Yen’s four intelligent and playful Children Games called “Toy Kaleidoscope” with homages to composers Satie, Debussy, Prokofiev, and Rimsky-Korsakov; and Nikolai Kapustin’s jazzy piece “Sinfonietta.” Drs. Chen and Liao both hold their doctoral degrees in piano performance from the University of Texas at Austin and have been performing together professionally since 2014.



On October 7, **Dr. Stefan Swanson's** new work *Symphony No. 2 "Lipsky"* received its premiere performance by the Ashland Symphony Orchestra in Ashland, Ohio, under the direction of Grammy Award-winning conductor Michael Repper. The piece was commissioned by the Ashland Symphony Orchestra in honor of Arie Lipsky, music director and conductor from 1996-2019, and was made possible with grants from The Friends of the Ashland Symphony Orchestra and The Ashland County Community Foundation.

Dress Code (Oh Well Productions), a feature film that **Dr. Stefan Swanson** scored, played at numerous prestigious festivals including the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival, the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival, and the Newark Film Festival, winning multiple awards including Best Original Score at the New Jersey Film Awards.

Dr. Scott Hippensteel has been selected to present at The Midwest Clinic in December 2023. His topic

Programming Paradoxes: Choosing Repertoire That Resonates combines research from his recent sabbatical with his passion for concert programming in the wind ensemble setting. The Midwest International Band and Orchestra Conference is held in Chicago each December with over 20,000 attendees annually.

https://www.midwestclinic.org/2023_clinician_Scott_Hippensteel ■

Pianists Dr. Maggie Chen and Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao





Ram Band 2023

Join the Ram Band as we celebrate 50 seasons of marching band at Shepherd University with music from some of the Ram Band's most popular shows along with three versions of Shepherd school songs. The Ram Band 50th Anniversary Show features three Shepherd University fight songs (SU Fight, Can't Turn You Loose, Fight On), Swingin' Shepherd Blues, In The Stone/September (Earth, Wind and Fire), Mambo (West Side Story) Smooth (Santana), Seasons of Love (Rent), And So It Goes (Billy Joel), Signed, Sealed, Delivered (Stevie Wonder), and Jump, Jive and Wail (Brian Setzer). These pieces represent music from some of the most popular Ram Band shows performed over the past five decades.

The Ram Band took their show on the road this year. In addition to our regular Shepherd University home football games as well as Founders Day, Homecoming, and the Shepherdstown Christmas parades, the Ram Band performed at the Martinsburg High School Fall Spectacular of Bands on September 30, the 27th Annual Collegiate Marching Band Festival in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on October 1, the Frederick County Public Schools Marching Band Showcase at Linganore High School on October 9, and the Washington County Public Schools Marching Band Showcase at Hagerstown South High School on October 10.

Ram Band Reunion 2023

This year, former Ram Band members dusted off their instruments to attend our Ram Band Reunion during Shepherd University's Homecoming Weekend. Former members of the Ram Band and color guard cheered us on from the stands, and some members even performed with us during the pregame and halftime shows at the October 21 game. We hope to continue our efforts in making this an annual tradition.

Shepherd Music Live!

This year, we are pleased to offer the option to purchase season ticket packages online with a discount. To purchase a season ticket package, visit <https://shepherdrams.universitytickets.com/w/packages/PackageDetail.aspx?PackageNewID=104>.



To purchase tickets for individual concerts, visit <https://shepherdrams.universitytickets.com/w/default.aspx?cid=180>. For an up-to-date listing of concerts, visit <https://www.shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts>.





Honor Music Festival 2024

The Shepherd University School of Music is excited to announce its 19th Annual Honor Music Festival to be held over the extended Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend January 12-14, 2024, in the Frank Arts Center. The festival includes an honor jazz ensemble, choir, and wind ensemble, comprised of outstanding high school students who have been nominated by their music ensemble directors. Participating students rehearse and perform with outstanding conductors and clinicians, participate in master classes with Shepherd faculty, hear performances from Shepherd ensembles, and benefit from an immersive musical experience. Students who wish to participate should contact their current music ensemble director for a nomination.

Our conductors for the Honor Music Festival are Dr. Scott Hippensteel (Wind Ensemble), Dr. Kurtis Adams (Jazz Ensemble), and Dr. Steven Grives (Choir). Special guest conductor Dr. Thomas Caneva will conduct the Honor Wind Ensemble, Kevin Woods will conduct the Honor Jazz Ensemble, and Dr. Jeremy Mims will conduct the Honor Choir. The Honor Music Festival culminates in a Gala Concert on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Frank Arts Center Theater.

Pictured (top to bottom) Dr. Thomas Caneva, Kevin Woods, and Dr. Jeremy Mims.

Choral Notes

The Shepherd University School of Music presented the United States Navy Sea Chanters on Thursday, October 19 in the Frank Arts Center Theater. The Sea Chanters, the United States Navy's official chorus, performs a variety of music including traditional choral music, sea chanteys, patriotic fare, opera, Broadway, and contemporary music. The Sea Chanters regularly perform for the public in the Washington, D.C., area and throughout the United States while on national tours. In Washington, D.C., they perform for the president, vice president, and numerous congressional, military, and foreign dignitaries.

Light and Life, the School of Music's fall choral concert, took place on Friday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Frank Arts Center Theater. The Shepherd University Camerata and Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Steven Grives, presented works by Anton Bruckner, Gabriel Fauré, Eric Whitacre, Franz Biebl, Sarah Quartel, Emily Sailors and Amy Ray, Brian Tate, and more. The Music Theater Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Bobb Robinson, will present excerpts from the upcoming spring production of *Into the Woods*.

The Masterworks Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Steven Grives, will present *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins on Saturday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Frank Arts Center Theater. Commissioned by the Royal Armouries Museum for the Millennium celebrations, the composition was dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis. *The Armed Man* is based on the Catholic Mass and combined with other sources, principally the 15th-century folk song "L'homme armé."

- Dr. Steven Grives ■



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School of Music audition dates

For admission and scholarships
for Fall 2024:

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Saturday, February 24, 2024

For more information, visit
[www.shepherd.edu/music/
audition-information/](http://www.shepherd.edu/music/audition-information/)

Scotland 2024

The Shepherd University School of Music is
excited to be touring Glasgow, Inverness,
and Edinburgh, May 5 – May 13, 2024.

We invite you to take advantage of this
amazing opportunity and experience
the history, culture, food, and music
of Scotland! We do plan to give two
performances; however, the trip is also
open to alumni and family members
of Shepherd University students who
would like to travel with us. Trips to the
National Piping Center (bagpipes!),

Culloden Battlefield, Loch Lomond, Fort
William, Stirling Castle, and Edinburgh
Castle are included in our journey. To
view our travel itinerary, pricing, and
registration information, please visit
[performing.worldstrides.com/My-
Account/My-Tours/TourCenter/GLpromo.
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