

Washington and Lee University | Department of Music | Summer 2015



FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Welcome to the first edition of Polyphony, the news magazine of the Department of Music at Washington and Lee University. Just as independent musical lines come together to form a complex and interesting composition, the Department of Music brings individuals together in ways that enhance their

unique talents and, at the same time, equips them to contribute to the rich diversity of musical and cultural expression.

In this issue we will recap the highlights of the recently completed 2014-2015 academic year. You will read about internationally-acclaimed performers who came to campus, student accomplishments, alumni news and faculty activities. You will meet our new Director of Instrumental Activities, learn about improvements to Wilson Hall and find out about new curricular developments. We will also look ahead to the exciting Concert Guild and SonoKlect events of the coming year, the University Singers tour to Ireland, ensemble concerts, faculty and student recitals and alumni events.

In May, the music faculty completed a ten-year strategic plan for the Department of Music that was sixteen months in the making. We have charted a bold course that we believe will enhance W&L's reputation as a great institution for music. You can find the plan on our website at go.wlu.edu/musicplan. One of the most ambitious goals of that plan calls for the University to become accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. We are hard at work to achieve that goal and one of the articles in this issue will shed more light on that endeavor.

Those of us who teach here get to work with the brightest students from across the country and around the world. Everything we do is focused on giving them the best education possible. I hope that reading Polyphony will not only inform you but will excite you about who we are and what we do!

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DEPARTMENT NEWS



NASM national association of schools of music

ASPIRING TO ACCREDITATION

The Department of Music has set a goal for W&L to become accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) by 2018. Founded in 1924, NASM is an association of 657 accredited institutions that exists to promote national curricular and operational standards for collegiate music education. Additionally, NASM conducts statistical research, provides professional development opportunities for leaders of music departments, conservatories and schools, and engages in policy analysis.

NASM accredits the institution as a whole, not just the music unit. So, in everything from admissions policies to financial practices to curriculum development to governance structures NASM accreditation assures that the institution is effective, efficient and accountable. For example, standards such as those regarding evaluation, planning and projections ensure that an institution is engaged in ongoing trend analysis in the field of music so that its curricular programs remain relevant in their preparation of graduates and that its goal-setting and decision-making processes are well-informed and carefully planned. Every accredited institution must meet every standard, but the standards are written in such a way that each school can meet them in accordance with its distinctive identity, mission and resources. Such accountability offers our students the assurance that our program is vigorous and that the preparation it provides is excellent.

In 2013, Gregory Parker developed a five-year "pathway to accreditation" to guide the University's efforts in this area. Year two of that plan called for a campus visit by an NASM consultant in order to establish a baseline for our work towards accreditation. Daniel Sher. Dean Emeritus of the University of Colorado College of Music served as W&L's consultant, visiting the campus in March 2015. Sher brought an extensive background to the task, having made some 75 evaluative and consultative visits to college, university and conservatory music programs during his 29-year career as the music dean first at LSU then at Colorado. Additionally, he served as president of NASM from 2006-2010. His report has provided valuable insights that will inform our ongoing efforts.

Washington and Lee would become the first top-twenty liberal arts college in America to be accredited by NASM.

CURRICULAR CHANGES

This year has seen a number of changes in the requirements for a music degree from W&L as we strive to assure that our program remains relevant and engaging. Here are the highlights of this year's changes:

The General Music Sequence

Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, students who want to major in music will have another sequence (or concentration) from which to choose: the general music sequence. Until now, music majors had to choose from sequences in music history, theory and composition, or performance. The general music sequence will appeal to those students who want a broader experience in their music major. In any given year, approximately half of all declared music majors are also majoring in another discipline. The general music sequence will be a good choice for many of those students who are planning careers in a field other than music and who want to pursue their passion for music-making.

MUS 121: Worlds of Music

Because our students need to be acquainted with the music of cultures outside of the western European tradition, Professor Parker created Worlds of Music, an introductory survey of music from Africa, Asia, the Arab World, India, Indonesia, Eastern Europe and Native America. It was taught for the first time during the winter 2015 Term. The new course is required for music majors and is available to other students who are looking for a fine-arts elective. In addition to lectures and listening assignments, students heard guest lectures on bluegrass music by James Leva, Japanese music by Professor Watanabe and Beijing Opera by VMI professor, Peng Xu. In some cases, they even tasted the cultures by sampling Polish almond cookies and Syrian baba ganoush. The highlight of the term was the first annual Pickens World Music Concert featuring Ugandan émigré, Samite Mulondo and his trio on Feb. 7. The concert was made possible by funds from the Pauline B. and Paul D. Pickens Fund for the Performing Arts. The next Pickens World Music Concert will feature

Simon Shaheen, the Palestinian-born virtuoso oud and violin player and his trio on Oct. 23, 2015.

MUS 205: Introduction to the Music Industry

The proliferation of technology that is affordable and practical for professional and amateur musicians alike has opened new entrepreneurial vistas to them. Highly successful programs in music entrepreneurship have emerged in a number of prestigious music academies. Over the last five years, presentations and round table discussions on the subject of music entrepreneurship have been offered at the annual meetings of the National Association of Schools of Music. Clearly. it is a trend in the field of music that is of great interest to a wide range of musicians, from classical to hip-hop performers, as well as educators, marketers and logisticians.

In response, Graham Spice, audio engineer for the Department of Music, developed a new course called Introduction to the Music Industry and taught it for the first time during the Winter 2015 Term. The course is an overview of the music business that looks at copyright and contractual issues, sources of revenue, networking, and evaluation of musical examples from different genres and time periods to determine why they were successful or not.

Speaking about the new course, Spice said, "The greatest reward for me in offering MUS 205 was that at the end of 12 short weeks of study, the majority of the students enrolled in it were actively seeking employment and internships in the music industry. Student interaction with alumni working in the music business really encouraged this." Throughout the semester, a number of alums video chatted with the class, helping students learn about the different roles available to them in the industry. One class assignment required students to reach out to alumni working in the music business to develop strategies for networking. Also, the Department of Music hosted a Music Business Seminar which brought four young alumni and friends of Washington and Lee back to campus to discuss their developing careers.

MUS 365: Post-Tonal Music

Responding to concerns that the current three-term music theory sequence was not adequately addressing theoretical developments of the 20th and 21st centuries, Professor Vosbein created a fourth-term theory course called Post-Tonal Music. The new class will allow music majors to delve further into the history of significant styles from Debussy to the present, while learning new analytical techniques to better comprehend the sounds of this music. He will teach it for the first time during the winter 2016 Term.

Visit Us Online!

You can drop in on the Department of Music 24/7 in the following ways:

On our web page at www.wlu.edu/music

On YouTube at www.youtube.com/c/MusicWL

Keep up with the University Singers:

On Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, use the tag @WLUSingers Like them on their Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/wlusingers

Also, visit these music faculty and staff member sites:

Shane Lynch — http://shanelynchmusic.com/

Graham Spice — grahamspice.com

Terry Vosbein— Website: www.vosbein.com/

Research on Stan Kenton — www.vosbein.com/kenton

Buy CD's featuring Prof. Vosbein, Tom Artwick and the engineering of Graham Spice at Max Frank Music: www.maxfrankmusic.com

On YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/tvosbein

Shuko Watanabe Petty and Byron Petty at www.ardoclassicalartmusic.com

MAKING A GOOD THING BETTER: IMPROVEMENTS TO WILSON HALL

The 2014-2015 academic year was a busy one in many ways, not the least of which was in regard to improvements and upgrades in Wilson Hall. This year's projects included:

Adding instructional technology to Wilson 4008

Originally conceived as a computer lab, room 4008 has served as a meeting space, a makeshift adjunct faculty office, a harp studio and the aural skills classroom. However, its lack of classroom technology kept it from reaching its full potential as a teaching space. That changed over the winter break when a computer, projector and audio system were installed in the room as a result of a capital funding request submitted in the previous year. The room can now accommodate classes or meetings of up to 17 people. We hope to purchase new furniture for the room over the summer in order to improve sightlines and increase its flexibility.

Improvements in our piano inventory

A generous gift by Dr. Alfred E. Eckes Jr. '64 and his wife, Dr. Sylvia Reynolds Eckes allowed the University to purchase a Steinway Model L grand piano for practice room 3042 and refurbish the 1981 Steinway Model D concert grand piano that once graced the Keller Theater stage for use in Wilson 2018. The Model L replaces one of the many Czech-built Petrof III grand pianos that were purchased when Wilson Hall was built in 2006. While a number of the Petrofs produce a pleasant tone and have a responsive action, they present some serious issues in terms of long-term durability, prompting the Department of Music to begin replacing them with Steinways as funds are available. The reconditioned Model D provides an excellent piano for room 2018 in which all music history courses are currently taught and senior thesis presentations are given.

Improvements to Wilson 2019

A capital request to fund Phase I of a plan to convert Wilson 2019 into a multi-purpose classroom and rehearsal space was approved this year. Room 2019 was originally intended to



The Steinway L in Wilson 3042



Wilson 2019 in its current configuration (Contributed Photo)

be a choral rehearsal room. However, the growth in the choral program rendered the space usable for section rehearsals only. It has also been the home of the Electronic Music Ensemble (EME). In order to maximize its potential, classroom technology, whiteboards and audio system upgrades will be added during Phase I, which should take place during the 2015-2016 academic year. These changes will necessitate the relocation of lighting and a new ceiling in the room. Phase II of the project will consist of new furniture and should take place during the following year. The end result will be a room that can accommodate up to 25 students in classes or small ensemble rehearsals.

LED Stage Lighting in Wilson Concert Hall

A capital request by the Lenfest Center to replace the incandescent over-stage lighting in the concert hall with LED lights was approved this year. Installation of the new lights will take place over the summer. According to John Lindberg, assistant director of the Lenfest Center for production, the new lights will be more durable and generate less heat than the old ones, which should make for more comfortable performers and lower electric bills.



The refurbished Steinway D in Wilson 2018

FROM NEAR AND FAR: RENOWNED PERFORMERS HIGHLIGHTED 2014-2015 CONCERT GUILD SEASON

The Concert Guild season of 2014-15 featured three events, all of which were highly successful and warmly received by our audiences. On Nov. 15, 2014, the famed American operatic soprano Elizabeth Futral sang a recital of music based on the theme of the four seasons. Noteworthy in her program were three "Autumn Songs" especially written for her by the American composer Theo Morrison. On the next morning Futral worked with our voice students at a master class. She and her husband, conductor Steven White, make their home in nearby Franklin County, Virginia.

In late January, the Philadelphia-based Marinus Ensemble came to the campus for the third year in a row, partially thanks to funding provided by Gerry Lenfest '53, '55L. This time the group consisted of siblings Rachel Kuipers Yonan, violist and Joseph Kuipers, cellist, complemented by the talents of Sarah Shafer, soprano and Alexander McDonald. Their program included arias by Bach, songs by Schubert, Rachmaninoff and Villa-Lobos, as well as the Trio in A minor for viola, cello and piano by Brahms. As part of their residency, all four musicians gave master classes for our instrumental and vocal students.

To close the season, the world-renowned all-male a cappella group, The King's Singers, came from Britain to perform at W&L on Feb. 13, 2015. This was their fourth visit to the campus,



The Marinus Ensemble (Contributed Photo)



Elizabeth Futral coaches Emily Streeper '16 with Jonathan Chapman Cook at the piano

and this time they presented a program entitled The Great American Songbook, featuring works by composers such as Arlen, Gershwin, Porter, Kern and Richard Rodgers as well as arrangements of traditional spirituals. The sold-out house gave

the charismatic group an enthusiastic standing ovation.

For the 2015-2016 season, the Concert Guild will again present three exciting acts. In collaboration with the

(continued on page 7)



The Kings Singers (Contributed Photo)



The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players in "Mikado" (Contributed Photo)



Chanticleer (Contributed Photo)



Lenfest Series, the season will open on Sept. 21, 2015, with a completely staged performance of the comic operetta "The Mikado" given by the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, celebrating their 40th anniversary season.

On Oct. 27, Chanticleer, the Grammy award-winning ensemble of twelve male voices, will make its sixth appearance at W&L. While on campus, the group will present a master class for our choral ensembles.

The season will close on Feb. 6, 2016, with a very special performance by the pianist Andrew Willis. Widely regarded as a leading authority on the historical development of keyboard instruments, Willis will bring his own 1848 Pleyel piano to Washington and Lee to play a program of mostly Chopin's music. In addition, our piano students will have an opportunity to play on this historic instrument in a master class.

Andrew Willis and his 1848 Pleyel Piano (Contributed Photo)



NEW MUSIC SHINES IN SONOKLECT SERIES

In the fall of 2014 cellist Alan Harrell and pianist Brad Blackham performed a recital of chamber music. These fine musicians are former school mates of Professor Vosbein's at the Cleveland Institute of Music and it was exciting to have them offer the world premiere of his composition "The Dance of Dionysus."

In March Professor V. had the pleasure of conducting nine of his favorite jazz musicians in a salute to classic French songs. It was a fine night of jazz, and will be the subject of an upcoming CD, La Chanson Française.

Next season promises more superb performers. The Vosbein-Magee Big Band, W&L's first resident professional big band, will grace Wilson Hall in October. Comprised of the region's top jazz musicians, Professor Vosbein is excited about launching this new band with Chris Magee, who is an assistant professor of music and director of the Jazz Ensemble at Lynchburg College.



Terry Vosbein at the podium

Winter term brings a performance by the Dalí Quartet, today's freshest voice in classical and Latin-American music. Anchored in both Venezuela's El Sistema and in American classical conservatory traditions, this exciting string quartet combines the best of both worlds. Additionally, they will be coaching students in a workshop during their W&L stay.



The Dali Quartet (Contributed photo)



The combined choirs and Wind Ensemble performing "The Easter Symphony".

Choral Area News

It's been a wild and wonderful year for the choral program at W&L. The largest number of students participating in the Lynch era made wonderful music throughout the year, singing a great variety of songs across the U.S. The year kicked off with the traditional University Singers midnight rehearsal the Sunday of

Orientation Week and wrapped up with the Commencement Concert and Baccalaureate Service during Graduation Week. It was a whirlwind from start to finish!

Major performances for the groups included the annual Parents and Family Weekend Concert in October, which featured the men of the Glee Club and University Singers singing James Stevens' "Nearer My God to Thee," and the March

31 presentation of "The Easter Symphony", a daunting modern oratorio by David Holsinger that was performed by all three choirs and the University Wind Ensemble. The MLK concert was particularly powerful this year given the events in the country (and with the choirs performing from the lower level—not the balcony—of First Baptist Church). Notable performances of specific pieces

this year included Cantatrici's delighting us with "Voicedance" by Greg Jasperse and the Men's Glee Club making us weep with its singing of Mack Wilberg's "The Dying Soldier". Also, the performance of senior Thomas Day's lovely setting of "The Lamb" by the combined voices of Cantatrici and the Glee Club was tender and meaningful.

The University Singers were busy singing and building experiences, both musical and in fellowship, that will last a lifetime. Traditional favorites like our fall choir retreat at Camp Brethrenwood, the annual Lessons and Carols service in Lee Chapel, and the choir tour through the Northeast shaped a great year. The choir

received high praise for its performances in the Washington National Cathedral, the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and many other fine venues along the way. Audience favorites this year included Ēriks Ešenvalds' haunting "Northern Lights", Rosephanye Powell's rocking "Hallelujah" from The Cry of Jeremiah, and "The Road Home", made bittersweet by the passing of its composer, the great Stephen Paulus, in October, 2014.

The 2015-16 choir season is shaping up to be fairly epic. In addition to the annual events, the three choirs will combine in March to perform Beetho-

ven's fabulous "Choral Fantasy", complete with orchestra and W&L's own Jonathan Chapman Cook performing the daunting piano solo. The University Singers will get to do a master class with the members of Chanticleer in October, perform at several other prestigious national venues throughout the year, and then depart during April break for a 10-day tour of Ireland. While there, the choir will have the chance to make music with Irish choirs. work with renowned Irish choral composer Michael McGlynn, and bring wonderful music across the pond. And of course, we'll sing "Danny Boy" throughout the year just to stay motivated for the trip.



The University Singers at the Main Altar of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

INSTRUMENTAL AREA NEWS

The Bluegrass Ensemble reached new ground during the 2014-2015 academic year and is continuing to grow. Led by the award-winning Nate Leath, students are introduced to bluegrass music and encouraged to improvise within the idiom. The ensemble also explored the roots of bluegrass such as Scotch-Irish, old time Appalachian, gospel and the blues. Also, they got a chance to dive in to modern influences such as jazz, Latin and funk.

The Bluegrass Ensemble performed its fall concert in Wilson Concert Hall. The show was a huge success and brought much attention to the efforts of the ensemble. Come winter, the BGE played to a jam-packed and enthusiastic crowd in Elrod Commons Living Room. Bluegrass has become widely popular among the Washington and Lee student community.

Regarded by his musical associates as an unusually versatile musician, Nate Leath is a rare type of performer who is equally at home in an old-time fiddle jam and the improvisatory demands of modern jazz. After winning a number of highly regarded fiddle contests across the South, and with solo recording credits to his name while still a teen, he developed his jazz and compositional abilities while receiving his bachelor's degree at Berklee College of Music in Boston. In addition to directing the Bluegrass Ensemble, Leath teaches acoustic guitar at W&L.

The Electronic Music Ensemble was created in 2010 for student musicians who wish to be engaged in the performance of music that utilizes music technology. The EME performs music from a wide variety of genres and encourages student composers to write for the ensemble.

The past academic year offered a number of different opportunities for the EME. The concert in the Fall of 2014 featured four new compositions written for duets in the ensemble. Each student chose a duet partner and then worked throughout the semester to compose and arrange a duet to be performed at the concert in December. Staff pianist Jonathan Chapman Cook and EME director Graham Spice also composed and performed a



The Electronic Music Ensemble in its December 2014 concert.



The Bluegrass Ensemble warms up for its November concert

duet at this concert using recorded samples of members in the audience. These duets proved to be an excellent vehicle not only for learning about the available tools but also for developing the communication skills to compose, arrange and perform together. The students also chose, arranged and performed songs by contemporary artists including Chvrches, Lights, Zedd and Clean Bandit.

April's concert focused on longer arrangements and student compositions, many generated by senior music minor Frank Diez and sophomore Austin Frank. "Themesongs," arranged by Frank Diez, combined four popular theme songs with an electronic music bent from TV and film: Dr. Who, Terminator 2, Game of Thrones and Ghostbusters. Throughout the concert, a new instrument was also featured: the Electronic Wind Instrument (EWI) played by senior Anthony Bailey. Songs by commercial artists Patrick Stump, Virtual Riot, Haywyre, Until The Ribbon Breaks and AWOL Nation were also performed.

The EME encourages student musicians to use their technical skills on their instruments to explore new sounds and styles. The ensemble performs with a variety of electronic tools including iPads, laptops, drum pads, turntables, synthesizers and foot pedals along with standard instruments like electric guitars and drums. The EME also has an interest in creating a strong visual presentation at their concerts with modern, computer-generated video projections. Complete EME performances are available on YouTube.

The University Jazz Ensemble started on a high, having ended the previous school year with a tour and a performance at the Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville. Our on-campus performances consisted of two full-length concerts, participation in the Parents and Family Weekend Concert and the Holiday Concerts.

The annual performances at Kendal at Lexington, a local retirement home, are a highlight of the band's calendar. The students and the residents seem to really enjoy the connections made there over some fine jazz.

A short tour brought the Jazz Ensemble to each side of the state to close out the school year. The band was invited to perform at the 50th annual conference of the Potomac &



The University Jazz Ensemble's April performance in Wilson Concert Hall

Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling at the fabulous Homestead Resort in western Virginia. The band also performed for alumni and family members at historic St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia.

Next year the UJE looks forward to doing all of these things plus more. The fall concert will salute Frank Sinatra's centennial. And starting in 2016, the Jazz Ensemble will become a regular fixture in the MLK Concert held each January at the historic First Baptist Church, Lexington.

A major area of focus for the **University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra** during the 2014-15 season was giving the Washington and Lee string students who enrolled in the course a greater stake and identity in the ensemble. To this end, they were featured as a stand-alone smaller ensemble in one selection per concert. The group performed Andrzej Panufnik's Old Polish Suite on the Fall term concert and they were featured in two movements of Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings on the Spring term concert. The Panufnik piece was stylistically challenging; the Tchaikovsky was technically and musically challenging. The students did a fine job on both pieces. The Washington and Lee students also performed on the Holiday Concert.



The University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra's fall concert

Two of our talented music students, Ellen Phillips and Shan Jiang, performed as soloists with the orchestra on the Spring term concert. Ellen, a graduating German and philosophy double-major, performed the Barber Violin Concerto; Shan, a music performance and business administration double major from the class of 2016, performed the Chaminade Concertino on the flute. The orchestra will continue to feature deserving Washington and Lee students as soloists.

The orchestra, which will be renamed University Orchestra as of the Fall 2015 term, will give the students an even greater identity. It is expected that the students will comprise approximately half of the total ensemble membership, which will be 40-50 players. While this number is significantly less than the 70-75 players of the recent past, it gives the orchestra an opportunity to explore chamber orchestra and string orchestra literature more fully. Efforts are underway to encourage wind, brass and percussion players to become involved in the orchestra — formerly a rare situation. Concerts will be shortened a bit from those of the past, with the goal being around 60 minutes of music per concert. This will allow for greater fine-tuning of the concert pieces.

These adjustments to the orchestra size and performance curriculum will allow for bringing out the best in our student musicians. Please join us for our concerts on Nov. 14, 2015 and April 2, 2016.



Chad Reep conducting the second movement of The Easter Symphony

The University Wind Ensemble presented an excellent concert in November 2014 that featured works by Sousa, Hearshen, Van der Roost, Ticheli and Mackey and played on the Holiday Pops Concerts in December. During the winter term, the ensemble focused on the preparation of movements I and II of "The Easter Symphony", a very challenging modern oratorio for symphonic band, choir and baritone soloist by David Holsinger.

That concert on March 31 was a bittersweet occasion as it marked the final time that Chad Reep, visiting director since 2012, would direct the band. Professor Christopher Dobbins will take over that responsibility when he assumes the position of assistant professor of music and director of instrumental activities in the fall term. Reep excelled in every aspect of his role at W&L and we wish him the very best.

STUDENT NEWS

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Coralie Chu '18 played Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C-sharp minor," and Conley Hurst '17 played both an original work, "The Dark Path," by senior Thomas Day, as well as accompanying Maggie Ma, violinist, in his own composition, Sonata for violin and piano at the SSA conference on the W&L campus in March. Both are applied piano students of Timothy Gaylard.

Andrew Conlon '16 will utilize the funds from his Todd Jones Award to study clarinet with Prof. Les Nicholas over the summer in preparation for his senior recital in May 2016.

Thomas Day '15 won first place in the 2015 Arnold Salop Memorial Composition Contest presented by the Southeastern Composers League for his composition for violin and piano entitled "The Dark Path". Thomas was a student of Terry Vosbein. Also, Thomas was a recipient of the 2015 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, presented by the University each year to the undergraduate senior man and woman, as determined by a vote of the faculty, who "excel in high ideals of living, in fine spiritual qualities, and in generous and unselfish service to others."

Shan Jiang '16 had a very interesting and rewarding year, playing in a work by Ravel on a faculty voice recital given by Jason Widney and performing Cecile Chaminade's "Concertino for Flute and Orchestra" with the University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mark Taylor. Shan is an applied flute student of Byron Petty. Also, Shan has a summer internship lined up at PARMA Recordings in North Hampton, New Hampshire, that will be partially funded by her Todd Jones Award.

Sarah (Ji Hyun) Min '15 presented a wonderful senior piano recital on March 29, 2015, and successfully completed her music minor with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She also participated in SSA on March 13, 2015, performing Schubert's "Impromptu in E-flat Major". Sarah studied applied piano with Shuko Watanabe Petty.

Jack Powers '15 won third place in the 2015 Arnold Salop Memorial Composition Contest presented by the Southeastern Composers League for his composition for violin, viola and cello entitled "A Young Sonata." Jack was a student of Terry Vosbein.



On May 27, 2015, students and their family members as well as W&L faculty and staff members filled Wilson Concert Hall for the annual Fine Arts Awards Ceremony. In addition to awards given by the Department of Art and Art History, the Department of Theater, Dance and Film Studies, and the Lenfest Center, the Department of Music gave out seven music awards and two combined awards. Each student received a certificate, a cash award and a copy of the citation that was read during the ceremony.

We are especially grateful to Brad Gooch '58 for a generous gift that allowed us to present all award recipients with cash awards in addition to their certificates.

Choral Award: Established in 1992 to honor the graduating senior who has contributed most significantly to the choral program. There are two recipients this year.

Reid Andren '15, an accounting and business administration major from Fairfield, Connecticut

Zach Arnold '15, a biochemistry major from Keizer, Oregon

Jazz Ensemble Award: Presented to a student who has gone far beyond the everyday demands of ensemble participation, demonstrating leadership and musicianship skills that far exceed expectation.

Jack Powers '15, a music major from New York, New York

Music Technology Award: Presented to the senior who embodies leadership and self-motivation in and outside the classroom.

Frank Diez '15, a journalism major with a music minor from

Frank Diez '15, a journalism major with a music minor fro New York, New York

Piano Award: Presented to a student who, in the estimation of the piano faculty, has done outstanding work in applied piano.

Sarah Min '15, an accounting and business administration major with a music minor from Seongnami-Si, South Korea

University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra Award: Given to a graduating senior who demonstrates superior musicianship, unfaltering dedication and outstanding leadership in the Orchestra. There are two recipients this year.

Danielle Hurley '15, an environmental science major from Ballwin, Missouri

Ellen Phillips '15, a philosophy and German double major from Cincinnati, Ohio

University Wind Ensemble Award: Given to a graduating senior who has shown superior leadership and musicianship skills, and has earned the respect of his or her peers.

Scott Sugden '15, an English and biology double major from Circle Pines, Minnesota

Robert Stewart Award (Outstanding Music Student): Named for W&L's first professor of music, this award is given to the graduating senior who, in the opinion of the music faculty, has made the greatest contribution to music at Washington and

Thomas Day '15, a biochemistry, religion and music triple major from Franklin, Tennessee

Class of 1964 Fine Arts Prize: Established by the class in 1989, is awarded annually to the junior or senior whom the fine arts faculty identifies as having done the most outstanding work in any area of the fine arts. There are two recipients this year.

Cory Walker '15, a computer science major with a music minor from Riceville, Tennessee representing the Department of Music

Laura Wiseman '16, a studio art major from East Lansing, Michigan representing the Department of Art and Art History

Todd Jones Memorial Scholarship: Established in 1999 by family and friends to honor the memory of Todd Jones. Preference is given to students with a demonstrated interest in music and drama. Junior or senior applicants compete for a travel study experience by submitting a proposal that will enhance their own artistic development. There are two recipients representing the Department of Music this year.

Andrew Conlon '16, a physics engineering and music double major from Somerset, Massachusetts

Shan Jiang '16, a business administration and music double major from West Lafayette, Indiana

FACULTY NEWS

INSTRUMENTAL IN A NEW ERA: AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTOPHER DOBBINS

Later this summer, Professor Christopher Dobbins will join the faculty of the Department of Music as assistant professor of music and Director of Instrumental Activities. He will conduct the University Wind Ensemble, teach Music Theory I and II and coordinate the overall instrumental music program. He holds the bachelor of music in music education and the bachelor of music

in trombone performance from Hastings College, the master of music in trombone performance from the University of Utah, and will complete a doctor of education in music education at the University of Georgia in 2016. Prior to his appointment at W&L, he served as director of bands at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas from 2011-2015.

Polyphony: Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

Dobbins: I was born and raised in Nebraska, and spent most of my young life there. Upon moving to Utah for graduate school, I met my wife Heather, who grew up in Texas. We are blessed with a beautiful 14-month-old daughter named Ginny. We also have two dogs and three cats — so quite the busy household.

We've spent the past four years at a wonderful little university in far West Texas, and are very excited about moving to Lexington.

Polyphony: Who were some of your mentors and how did they impact you?

Dobbins: I have been so fortunate to have wonderful mentors and teachers throughout my life. I certainly wouldn't be anywhere near where I am now without them. Three of them stand out as having an especially large impact on my life. In no particu-

lar order they are:

Dr. Rob Babcock, professor of history at Hastings College, was the professor of my very first undergraduate class, Western Civilization up to 1664. He inspired me to think outside the box, to take the long view of various circumstances and to always think about the historical significance surrounding anything we do, including the performance of music. Even more important, he is a great example of how to be an incredible father and husband while still being dedicated to the development of your students. I am very lucky to count him as a friend to this day.

Dr. Marc LaChance, professor of music at Hastings College, was the first trombone teacher I ever had. He inspired me to always reach for greatness, but to keep my priorities

in line. Most importantly, he always encouraged me to take the next step in my musical development, even when that potentially meant moving away from his studio.



New Director of Instrumental Activities, Christopher Dobbins (Contributed Photo)

Mr. Fred J. Allen, Director of Bands at Stephen F. Austin State University, has been a wonderful inspiration and mentor to me as I transitioned from secondary school band director to college-level band director. He has helped me so much with everything from conducting technique to repertoire selection, and has given me wonderful opportunities to participate in conducting symposiums and concerts that I otherwise would not have been able to take advantage of.

Polyphony: How do you know when you have succeeded as a teacher?

Dobbins: Success as a teacher is hard to pinpoint. I think there are several things that can indicate success including how successful your students have been while at your institution, how dedicated they have been to their pursuits of the discipline, and what sorts of opportunities they are able to take advantage of following graduation. I think the most important point of success though, would have to be whether or not they make a point to stay in touch following graduation. If they do, you have made an impact on them, and that is the real mark of success in my book.

Polyphony: How would you describe your leadership style as an ensemble director?

Dobbins: I think I'm sort of a mix of opposites. I'm firm, yet fairly laid-back. I have old-school rehearsal traits, but also embrace new ideas and techniques. Most importantly, I think that I'm fair and understanding. I try not to make the ensemble experience dictatorial, but rather try to engage the performers in making musical decisions and guiding interpreta-

tion — even if that means the interpretation changes from day to day.

Polyphony: What are your research interests?

Dobbins: I'm very interested in the idea of routine and fundamental work in the ensemble setting, and how that relates to the perceived success of the ensemble. I hope to grow this idea into a viable dissertation topic, and maybe use the results of my research to develop an ensemble fundamentals method book.

I also have quite a fascination with the music of Ireland, and specifically the overall lack of a British-style brass banding tradition, despite the fact that Ireland was under the control of Great Britain for so long. It would be my dream to get to spend some time in Ireland researching why there are very few brass bands there, and whether that relates to a relative lack of mining in that country (in the 19th and 20th centuries almost every coal mine in the U.K. had a brass band), or if it's the resistance to all things British that accompanied the Irish independence movement.

Polyphony: Although work as a music educator and performer is rewarding, it can also be stressful. How do you de-stress?

Dobbins: I love to play golf, although admittedly, sometimes that can add to a stress level. I also very much enjoy hiking and traveling with my wife, sampling different craft beers and brewing some myself, and cooking and experimenting in the kitchen. Also — getting to go home and play with my daughter has really helped to decrease my overall stress level.

Polyphony: What are your aspirations for the instrumental music program at W&L?

Dobbins: Initially, I would like to get back to the point that instrumental ensembles are able to tour nationally and internationally. I think that touring is incredibly important for current students to be able to experience as well as to help build trust and collegiality when away from Lexington. I also think touring is a very important recruiting tool, and can help build a program in numbers and quality. Immediately, this might take the form of some chamber music ensemble touring, but I hope that it will expand to the large ensembles very rapidly.

Over the long haul, I would like to see instrumental music expand. Particularly, I would like to have a larger symphonic band (80-100 players), as well as an auditioned Wind Ensemble that can play some different repertoire. I would like to get to the point that our ensembles can play at regional and national conferences, and that we would have invitations for tour performances coming our way.

In particular with the Wind Ensemble, I hope to implement a composition contest, to bring in guest conductors and composers, and try to have some soloists (both students and invited guests) perform as well. All of these things contribute to a well-rounded and diverse program that is attractive to the community and to students.

Polyphony: Chris, thanks for taking the time to share a little about yourself and your vision for the instrumental music program at W&L. We eagerly anticipate your arrival on campus and the contributions you will make to the new era of music here.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE MUSIC ALUMNI EVENTS:

Young Alumni Weekend Open House

Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 4-5 p.m.

Lykes Atrium, Wilson Hall

Open to all alumni who graduated between 2005-2015.

Alumni Weekend Open House

Friday, April 29, 2016 3-4 p.m.

Lykes Atrium, Wilson Hall.

Alumni who graduated from W&L 11-50 years ago are invited

FACULTY FACTS

Jonathan Chapman Cook began his position as a staff accompanist at W&L in the fall 2014, his first official academic position since receiving his master's degree. His favorite part of the job is working with students of many different levels and seeing them progress from week to week. As a soloist, he was honored to present a recital in Wilson Hall in October 2014, and in February 2015 he performed Manuel De Falla's "Nights in the Gardens of Spain" with the Rockbridge Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mark Taylor.

Christopher Dobbins presented sessions at the Louisiana Music Educators and Colorado Music Educators annual conferences. He conducted the world premieres of five new works for band, including one that was later performed at the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) National Conference, a performance on which he served as a consultant. He was selected by audition for participation in the Stephen F. Austin State University Conducting Symposium where he worked with Dr. J. Eric Wilson, director of bands at Baylor University.

Timothy Gaylard maintains a busy schedule as a performer, lecturer and writer outside of the classroom. A recording called "Clementi Grand: His Works; His Fortepiano" made with his colleague Shuko Watanabe, was released in the summer of 2014; it features solo piano pieces and 4-hand duets by Clementi on an 1814 grand fortepiano given to the Department of Music by alumnus Dr. Larry Smith and his wife Ganelle. The recording is available on Spotify, iTunes, or from the Navona label and Amazon.com.

As the pianist of the Marlbrook Chamber Ensemble, he played a complete Dvořák program in October 2014 and in May 2015 a program of Beethoven's chamber music. Additionally, in January 2015 he played for Jason Widney, voice instructor, in a program that included works by Schubert, Ravel and Vaughan Williams. Also in January, he gave a series of three talks at R. E. Lee Episcopal Church on the various musical settings over the centuries of the Funeral Sentences from "The Book of Common Prayer" in the Anglican tradition. In March 2015 he attended his 700th operatic performance — the original five-act (five-hour!) French version of Verdi's "Don Carlos" in Sarasota, Florida.

He continues to be a reviewer of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra for The Roanoke Times. You can find many of those twenty reviews online at www. roanoke.com. Gaylard and his wife Catharine, formerly on the W&L faculty as a voice teacher, are now proud to have two granddaughters, children of their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, who was born in Lexington soon after the Gaylards arrived in town 31 years ago.

Shane Lynch guest conducted several high school honor choirs, including Virginia District V and a Roanoke-area honor choir. He has been working on several compositions for W&L choirs to perform next year, including "Mother and Son" using the Stabat Mater dolorosa text. It is the companion piece to 2013-14's "Mother and Child" that used the Stabat Mater speciosa text and was debuted by the University Singers. This summer he will complete a single movement "Gloria" setting that has been a 3-year project made possible through a Lenfest Grant. This setting is for SATB choir, SATB quartet, two pianos, brass quartet and timpani, with the hope that the dual pianos will be expanded to full orchestra at a later date if the work proves to be successful.

Also, Lynch was promoted to associate professor of music and granted tenure during the May meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Les Nicholas will be performing and teaching at the following music festivals over the course of the summer: the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival in Harrisonburg, Virginia (June); at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan (early July); and the Lancaster Festival near Columbus, Ohio (late July-Aug.) He has been invited to teach applied clarinet at U.N.C.-Chapel Hill in the fall as a leave replacement for Dr. Donald Oehler.

Gregory Parker directed the North Carolina Baptist All-State Youth Choir during its retreat and tour in July 2014. In October, he performed for the 150th anniversary celebration of the First Baptist Church of Scotland Neck, North Carolina and sang selections from Antonín Dvořák's "Biblical Songs" on the Marlbrook Chamber Ensemble's "Afternoon of Dvořák" program. He sang bass in a quartet performance of Johannes Brahms' "Liebeslieder Waltzer", Op. 52 at Hollins University in November.

In January, Parker became the part-time music director at Buena Vista Baptist Church. He has served churches in Alabama, Texas, Missouri, North Carolina and now Virginia during his 32-year career in church music. He was elected to a three-year term on the board of the Virginia chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) during its conference and auditions in February.

On March 31, he was the soloist for the presentation of David Holsinger's "Easter Symphony" at W&L and on May 1, he was the soloist for a performance of Maurice Duruflé's "Requiem", Op. 9 with the Roanoke College Choir at First Presbyterian Church of Roanoke. Also in May, he performed Gerald Finzi's song cycle, "Let Us Garlands Bring" during the Lasker Summer Music Festival in Northampton County, North Carolina.

Byron Petty was presented with many opportunities in three areas: flute, piano and composition during the year. With August came the release of the CD, "Clementi Grand: His Works, His Piano" on which he contributed by playing a Rondo on his copy of a 1715 Naust traverso wooden flute. In the fall he and wife, Shuko Watanabe gave a series of four performances of keyboard music by the sons of J.S. Bach — here at W&L, in Roanoke Virginia, Columbia South Carolina and a very interesting one at the Carolina Clavier Collection in Greenville South Carolina, where they performed on two historic Broadwood fortepianos built in 1787 and 1791.

In October at Radford University, two of his chamber compositions, "Lyrical, at times humorous for violin, viola, and piano" and "Nucleation" (a string trio) were part of a program titled "New Music by Virginia Composers." Another CD was released from PARMA/Navona in February. "FELT, Striking Works for Solo Piano" contains the works of seven composers including his "Propuntal Displays" for piano performed by PARMA artist Karolina Rojahn. Rounding out the year was a concert at W&L devoted exclusively to his compositions. Seven of the area's premiere performers joined Shuko and him in this retrospective celebration in which he appeared in three of his own works.

Shuko Watanabe Petty saw another busy and active year: in July 2014, she coached chamber music for the Princeton Chamber Play Week Virginia, held annually at Washington and Lee, and also performed in its faculty recital. Appearing along with her colleague, Professor Timo-

thy Gaylard, the CD "Clementi Grand: His Works, His Piano" was released in August. Also included in the CD is a piece for flute and piano with her husband Byron W. Petty, flutist.

In October, together with the Classic String Duo, she performed at Radford University in a "New Music by Virginia Composers" concert. Throughout the fall of 2014, she presented a series of performances called "Brotherly Keys: Sons of J.S. Bach," celebrating the 300th anniversary of Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach. It was performed with Byron W. Petty at "Music at St. Elizabeth" in Roanoke, Virginia, at W&L, and in South Carolina (Columbia and Greenville). She also gave piano master classes at the Fine Arts Center in Greenville and Spring Valley High School for the Arts in Columbia. The 2014-15 season concluded with performing seven works in "Developing Styles: Works by Byron W. Petty" as a part of Ardo Consort, a 60th birthday celebration for both Byron and Shuko.

Terry Vosbein's a cademic year was highlighted by two exciting W&L performances: the premiere of his latest chamber music composition, "The Dance of Dionysus" for cello and piano; and arranging, rehearsing, conducting, recording and performing 13 titles for an all-star jazz nonet.

From a teaching standpoint, it was also a banner year. Two of his senior composition students won awards; and the the Jazz Band kept getting better and better. He is excited about teaching The History of Jazz again on a more regular basis beginning in the fall 2015 term.

Summer 2015 will see the debut of the Vosbein-Magee Big Band at the Salem Jazz Festival. The new W&L resident professional jazz ensemble is co-led by former W&L instructor and trumpet player extraordinaire, Chris Magee, and will feature the area's best jazz musicians. Look for its on-campus debut in October.

ALUMNI NEWS

David Wilmington '94 completed a Ph.D. in religion (theology and ethics) from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and will graduate in August. He will continue teaching in the Baylor Great Texts Department and at Truett Theological Seminary this fall while searching for a tenure-track position. Music remains a major part of his work and he plans to continue research and writing on the dialogue between music and theology — particularly



David, Molly, Luke and Anna Grace Wilmington (Contributed photo)

what jazz improvisation can offer ethical and theological thinking and training.

In October, at an academic conference focused on Religion and Film, he presented a paper which included the showing of a short film he made in 2008 called "Bailey." A piece for cello and flute that he composed at W&L was part of the soundtrack. Also, in April he did a screening in Waco of a feature film he made in 2006. In addition to doing some musical scoring and sound design for this movie, called "X-Gen," he wrote, acted in and produced it.

He and his wife, Molly Frye Wilmington, will celebrate 19 years of marriage in August. She also works at Baylor, and they have two children: Luke, 11, and Anna Grace, 7, both of whom enjoy learning piano, recorder and singing (merely as preparation for saxophone, of course).

Matt LaMotte '00 is a marketing executive at Interscope Records, a division of Universal Music Group, working closely with artists such as Imagine Dragons, Zedd, Lana Del Rey, OneRepublic and more. Over the last few years his global marketing campaigns have resulted in two #1 album releases on the Billboard Top 200 chart, three Grammy awards, two #1 singles at Mainstream radio and a Clio advertising award. Matt lives in Los Angeles with his wife Jamie. In his spare time he performs the music of U2 in the tribute band *Blood Red Sky*.

Twitter: @mattlamotte



David Klinger (Contributed photo)

David Klinger '06 has been a part of the DC indie music scene for the last five years. Last year, he tried his hand at teaching a lesson in music theory for a program called "knowledge commons" that lets anyone teach free classes. Whether or not he tries teaching again, he will continue to explore and create music. You can keep abreast of his creative endeavors through his website: dvdklngr.com



Zedd and Matt LaMotte at 2014 Grammy Awards in Los Angeles (Contributed photo)

Catherine Feazell '07 is finishing her sixth year as choral director at Center Hill High School in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Her high school women's choir was a featured performer at the 2015 Mississippi Music Educators/Mississippi ACDA State Conference. She is serving as president-elect of the Mississippi Chapter of ACDA.



Lauren Quirk in costume for "It's a Wonderful Life" (Contributed photo)

Lauren Quirk '07 was the musical director of "It's A Wonderful Life," a 1940s style Radio Play for the stage based on the classic movie. She arranged the choral music and performed in the production which took place in December 2014 at Theatre Unleashed in North Hollywood, California.

Tyson Janney '13 and his wife Renata '13 will return to the U.S. in August after spending two years as English teachers in Japan.



Keith and Jennifer Ritter Trump (Contributed photo)

Keith Trump '14 teaches third grade at Success Academy Harlem 5 in New York City. Keith married Jennifer Ritter '13 in December and the couple resides on the Upper East Side.

GALLERY: IMAGES OF '14-'15



Clockwise from left: Jake Burnett '17, Alison Masson '18, Nancy Coleman '18, Jordan Goldstein '18, Emily Streeper '16 and Caroline Todd '17 at the Music Cookout in September



Weekend in October

The W&L booth at the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference in November



The Glee Club and Cantatrici sing for the Holiday Concert in December

GALLERY: IMAGES OF '14-'15





Cantatrici, under the direction of Madeleine Sullivan '16, performs for W&L's Science, Society and the Arts Conference in March.



The Samite Mulondo Trio warms a chilly February night



Dr. Peng Xu's lecture/demonstration on Beijing Opera in April



Professor Emeritus Gordon Spice conducts "Shenandoah" during Alumni Weekend in April



Students, faculty and staff enjoy a Q&A lunch with members of the Latino fusion band Ollin in May



The Class of 2015 celebrates its graduation in May

W&L MUSIC PERFORMANCE CALENDAR 2015 – 2016

Check the web page at www.wlu.edu/music or contact Mary Peterson in the Music Office at mpeterson@wlu.edu or 540-458-8852 to confirm event information.

All events are free unless noted in the Time column. Lenfest Center Box Office phone is 540.458.8000.

All events are in Wilson Concert Hall unless otherwise noted.

FALL TERM 2015	EVENT	TIME
Mon, Sep 21	Concert Guild/Lenfest - The Mikado	7:30 p.m. (Keller Theater) tickets required
Fri, Oct 2	Parents/Family Weekend Choral Concert	8:00 p.m. free tickets required
Sat, Oct 3	Parents/Family Weekend Applied Recital	10:00 a.m.
Sat, Oct 3	Parents/Family Weekend Instrumental Ensembles Concert	8:00 p.m.
Sat, Oct 10	SonoKlect – Vosbein-Magee Big Band	8:00 p.m.
Sun, Oct 11	Marlbrook Chamber Ensemble: Music of Mendelssohn	4:00 p.m.
Tue, Oct 13	Fall Choral Concert	8:00 p.m. free tickets required
Fri, Oct 23	Pickens World Music Concert: Simon Shaheen, oud and violin	8:00 p.m.
Tue, Oct 27	Concert Guild – Chanticleer	8:00 p.m. tickets required
Tue, Nov 3	University Wind Ensemble Concert	8:00 p.m.
Sat, Nov 7	University Orchestra Concert	8:00 p.m. tickets required
Thur, Nov 12	Applied Recital	8:30 p.m.
Sat, Nov 14	Bluegrass Ensemble Concert	8:00 p.m.
Tue, Nov 17	Voice Recital: Italian songs and arias	7:00 p.m. (Elrod Commons)
Thur, Dec 3	University Jazz Ensemble Concert – Sinatra Centennial	8:00 p.m.
Mon, Dec 7	Holiday Pops Concert	7:00 p.m. free tickets required
Tue, Dec 8	Holiday Pops Concert (repeat of Dec7 concert)	7:00 p.m. free tickets required
Thur, Dec 10	Lessons & Carols	8:00 p.m. (Lee Chapel)
WINTER TERM 2016	EVENT	TIME
Sat, Jan 23	MLK Concert	7:30 p.m. (FBC, Lexington)
Sun, Jan 24	Faculty Voice Recital – Greg Parker: Shakespeare 2016	3:00 p.m.
Sat, Feb 6	Concert Guild-Andrew Willis, piano	8:00 p.m. tickets required
Sat, Mar 5	SonoKlect – Dalí Quartet	8:00 p.m.
Sun, Mar 6	Ardo Consort in Concert	3:00 p.m.
Thur, Mar 10-		,
Sun, Mar 13	Bentley Musical: Legally Blonde	7:30 p.m. (Keller Theater) tickets required
Tue, Mar 15	Voice Recital – Salute to Sondheim	7:00 p.m. (Elrod Commons)
Tue, Mar 22	Winter Choral Concert	8:00 p.m. free tickets required
Thur, Mar 24	Applied Recital	8:30 p.m.
Tue, Mar 29	Bluegrass Ensemble Concert	7:00 p.m. (Stackhouse Theater)
Thur, Mar 31	University Jazz Ensemble Concert – the Rite of Spring	8:00 p.m.
Sat, Apr 2	University Orchestra Concert	8:00 p.m. tickets required
Sun, Apr 3	Junior Voice Recital – Jake Burnett	3:00 p.m.
Mon, Apr 4	University Wind Ensemble Concert	8:00 p.m.
Tue, Apr 5	University Singers Ireland Tour Kickoff Concert	8:00 p.m. free tickets required
Thur, Apr 7	Senior Composition Recital – Rachel Hodge	7:30 p.m.
SPRING TERM 2016	EVENT	TIME
Sun, May 1	Marlbrook Chamber Ensemble: French Music	4:00 p.m.
Tue, May 3	Senior Voice Recital – Emily Streeper	7:30 p.m.
Sun, May 8	Senior Flute Recital – Shan Jiang	4:00 p.m.
Mon, May 9	Junior Voice Recital – Olivia Shaves	7:30 p.m.
Tue, May 10	Senior Voice Recital – Madeleine Sullivan	7:30 p.m.
Thur, May 12	Senior Clarinet Recital - Andrew Conlon	7:30 p.m.
Tue, May 17	Senior Voice Recital – Erica Schiller	7:30 p.m.
Tue, May 24	University Singers Commencement Concert	8:00 p.m.
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