

Youth Chorus guest appearance

Members of the Hill Country Youth Chorus, directed by Dr. **Lynn Brinckmeyer**, were guest performers



for **Katie Hines**' senior recital in the Music Building Recital Hall on November 10. Katie is a senior music education major and has served as a student assistant director of HCYC for the past two years.

Blanco County News concert review

"Wow" was heard over and over after pianist **Washington Garcia**'s concert, the season opener for Blanco Performing Arts concert series . . .

"Dr. Garcia's technical prowess and emotional intensity brought the music to life and the audience to their feet, and rendered some normally very expressive people speechless. His Bach fugue was sparkling. His rendition of the well-known Beethoven sonatas was fresh and genuine. His affinity for Ecuadorian music, evoking the sounds and rhythms of South America, flowed naturally. His mastery of the virtuosic Schumann *Carnaval* was amazing in every way. His Chopin "Heroic" Polonaise was pure joy.

"This concert long will be remembered as a highlight of the musical series."

Tubist in Veracruz

In November, **Raul Rodriguez** spent a week in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, teaching master classes at the Facultad de Musica de la Universidad Veracruzana and the Instituto Superior de Musica del Estado de Veracruz. He also performed 2nd tuba with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Xalapa on

Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*.

with Maestro Eric Fritz (L) after the concert.



Minimal matters

Dr. **Rebecca M. Doran Eaton**, Senior Lecturer, has begun to garner an international reputation as a scholar of minimalist music. Her chapter, "Minimalist and Postminimalist Music in Multimedia: From the Avant-garde to the Blockbuster Film," was published in *The Ashgate Research Companion to Minimalist and Postminimalist Music* (November 2013). Her article, "Marking Minimalism: Minimal Music as a Sign of Machines and Mathematics in Multimedia," will appear in a forthcoming 2014 issue of the journal *Music and the Moving Image*. In October, Eaton presented "Recalling *Koyaanisqatsi*: Intertextuality and Minimalism's Cultural Reception" at the 4th International Conference on Music and Minimalism in Long Beach, California; her previous research was cited by several other presenters. This past May, she presented "Minimalism's Meaning in Multimedia: An Empirical Approach" at the Music and the Moving Image Conference in New York City. Eaton's research was also profiled in the inaugural 2013 issue of the Society for Minimalist Music's newsletter, *Minimal Matters*.



Big 12 bass

Junior performance major **Eliud Garcia** has been named one of three finalists in the Big 12 Trombone Conference's Bass Trombone Solo Competition. He will compete in a live final round in February at Texas Tech University.

Minor 4th

In October, Dr. **Martin McCain** and the Minor 4th Trombone Quartet were the monthly featured artists on The Gig Easy's website and also received rave reviews in the International Trombone Association's October Journal. On November 14, Dr. McCain and his quartet were guest soloists with the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra where they performed Jan Koetsier's Concertino for Trombone Quartet and Strings. McCain also conducted the brass sectionals for the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio in January.



Texas State Trombone Ensemble performs

On November 7, the Ensemble, directed by Prof. **Charles Hurt**, joined the Texas A & M Trombone Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. David Wilborn, for a concert in College Station. Professor **Ron Ulen** sang “If I Can’t Love Her” from *Beauty and the Beast*, which was arranged especially for him and the ensemble by Charles Hurt. Dr. **Cynthia Gonzales** sang *Three Short Sacred Concertos* by Heinrich Schütz, which was arranged especially for her and the ensemble by Hurt. The two ensembles combined to close the concert with a rousing rendition of Sousa’s *Liberty Bell March* complete with a percussion section from Texas State.

On November 10, the Texas State University Trombone Ensemble performed at the First Lutheran Church in San Marcos. Dr. Cynthia Gonzales, choir director and Texas State professor, was the host.

On November 17, the ensemble repeated the Texas A&M concert in Evans Auditorium and on Friday December 6, the group performed its annual offering of Christmas Carols in the Music Building lobby. Guest conductors for the Christmas Carols were seniors **Antonio Noriega**, **Amanda Chapla**, and the big guy in red (below).



Rio Grande tour

With the support of the School of Music and a Grant from Equity and Access, several faculty toured the Rio Grande Valley in December. **Stephen Hager**, horn, **Charles R. Hurt**, trombone, **Adah Toland Jones**, flute, **Kari Klier**, percussion, **Todd Oxford**, saxophone, and **Vanguel Tangarov**, clarinet, presented master classes, performances, lessons, and section rehearsal for several of the top high schools in the Rio Grande Valley. On December 9, the group visited Canyon High School-New Braunfels, Texas, Jason Adam, Director of Bands. On Tuesday the Faculty visited Palmview High School, Mission, Texas, **Jacob Banda**, Director of Bands. Jacob is one of our most distinguished alumni and studied trombone with Charles Hurt. On Wednesday the group visited Harlingen High School, Harlingen, Texas, Ronnie Rios, Director of Bands. **Marcos Telles**, the assistant director of bands, is another distinguished Texas State Alumni and studied saxophone with Professor **Doug Skinner**. L to R below: Tangarov, Hager, Klier, Jones, Rios, Hurt, Telles, Oxford



In the afternoon, the group presented three master classes at Los Fresnos High School, Michael Garcia, Director of Bands. Thursday included a visit to Juarez-Lincoln High School, **Zynahia Banda**, Director of Bands. “Ziny”, yet another distinguished alum, studied flute with Dr. Adah Jones. The tour ended on Friday with the presentation of three master classes at North Edinburg High School, Chad Dempsey, Director Bands. Approximately seven to eight hundred students were included in master classes, lessons, and section rehearsals during the tour.