

### Hong Kong trombones

Dr. **Martin McCain** recently performed and taught at several schools in Hong Kong and Macau in addition to being interviewed on Hong Kong's Radio 4 RTHK. He is currently in collaboration with the Hong Kong Trombone Association and the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts to bring Chinese graduate trombone students to Texas State.



McCain was invited to return to Hong Kong in July 2014 to teach and perform at the SliderAsia Trombone Festival, and the Texas State Trombone Choir has been invited to perform at the 2016 SliderAsia. He also spent a week in South Carolina performing with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. More locally, he gave solo recitals in the Hallettsville Cultural Center Concert Series and through his own concert series "Raise the Bar" at local public schools.

### Carol of the Bones

The Texas State Trombone Choir directed by **Martin McCain** just released its debut album, "*Carol of the Bones*," just in time for the holidays.  
[www.txstatetrombone.com/recordings](http://www.txstatetrombone.com/recordings)

The album was recorded in Evans Auditorium by **Angel Vidal**, mixed and edited by Vidal and **Eliud Garcia** and mastered by **Marshall Breedlove**. It showcases works arranged specifically for the ensemble, including Jack Wilds' arrangement of Vaughan-Williams' "Fantasia on Christmas Carols," a project in collaboration with the Texas State Chorale under the direction of **Joey Martin**, with **John Schmidt**, organ, and **Ron Ulen**, baritone.



### Broadcast scholarship

Congrats to music major **Sarah McGriff** for being awarded a \$5,000 Abe Veron Award scholarship



from the Broadcast Educators Association. Sarah has been a member of the KTSW radio staff since she arrived at Texas State in 2011 and will soon add a Mass Comm minor. After graduation, she plans to return to Iowa, where she hopes to work in radio and someday own her own radio station.

### Pas de Trois

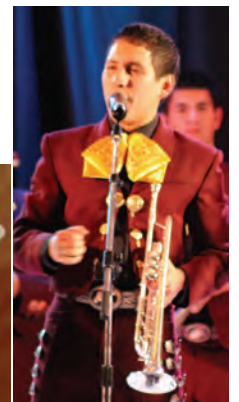
**Charles Ditto's** duet, *Pas de Deux*, received two performances recently in the Boston area. Oboist



**Ian Davidson** (L) and clarinetist **Vangel Tangarov** (R) performed the piece at the Boston Conservatory as part of Dr. Tangarov's guest artist presentations, and then performed it in Cambridge at the College Music Society National Convention.

### Vargas Extravaganza

Mariachi Nueva Generacion, under the direction of **John Lopez**, won second place for collegiate mariachis in the annual Vargas competition in San Antonio. They then performed as the opening act for Mariachi Vargas in the final concert. MNG solo singer **Nelson Ruiz**, coached by **Michelle Quintero**, won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the solo singing competition.





## Turkey, Germany, Montreal, Round Rock

Dr. Nico Schüler presented a paper on



"Technology as a Tool to Enhance Aural Skills Acquisition" at a music conference in Turkey. At the First International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Thought, he presented "Cornelia Schröder-Auerbach (1900-1997) and Her

Contributions to Early Music Research and to Historical Performance Practice." He was an invited speaker for an international research and performance project between Israel and Germany to present "Cornelia and Hanning Schröder in Dargun (1944-1953)" and "The Music of Hanning Schröder". At the International Congress of the German Society for Music Research, he lectured on The Harlan Trio as a forgotten pioneer for historical performance practice. He also presented "Creative Music Processes as the Focus of Otto Laske's Cognitive Musicology" at the International Conference on *Tracking the Creative Process in Music* in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Schüler's presented on "Mental Health & Illness and its Relationship to Artistic Creativity" at the American Musicological Society Southwest Chapter Conference.

## American oboist in Rio

Oboist **Ian Davidson** performed as featured soloist at the RioWinds Festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



(above) with Brazilian pianist Claudio Vettori following a solo recital at the Museu da Republica

(left) at the Museu Belles Artes, following a Solo Recital in the Grande Sala.

## D'Amore

**Ian Davidson** performed Bach's Concerto for Oboe D'Amore with the Balcones Chamber Orchestra, as part of their six-concert season. The performance was held at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin.

## In the movies

**Vanguel Tangarov, Ian Davidson, Adah Jones, and Daris Hale** worked with composer Hannon Townshend and sound engineer Kelly Donnelly on soundtrack segments for the film "Knight of Cups" directed by acclaimed film director Terence Malick and starring Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, and Natalie Portman.



## Holiday cheer

On December 5, the **Faith DeBow's** piano accompanying class and **Ames Asbell's** viola studio gave a very enthusiastically received Christmas concert at Mariposa Apartments.



## Opera in the Hill Country

Texas State Opera Theatre produced its first world premiere, Henry Mollicone's *Children of the Sun*, on November 15, 16 and 17. The one-act opera conducted by **Kristin Roach**, uses text by playwright William Luce based on the story of the Virgin of Guadalupe, and features musical idioms and melodies from Aztec and Hispanic cultures. The production also enlisted the talents of McCallum Academy in Austin, part of an outreach effort to schools, local churches and other organizations to bring opera to the Central Texas community, according to Dr. **Samuel Mungo**, Director of Opera Studies. Plans are in the works for the production to travel throughout the Southwest.

## SmartMusic® in Pasadena

Theory professor and SmartMusic® Higher Education Clinician **Cynthia I. Gonzales** led SmartMusic® clinics in Pasadena, McAllen and Washington, D.C.. Her Pasadena visit involved alumni **Reynaldo Benitez** (L) and **John Villafranco**, both band directors there.

