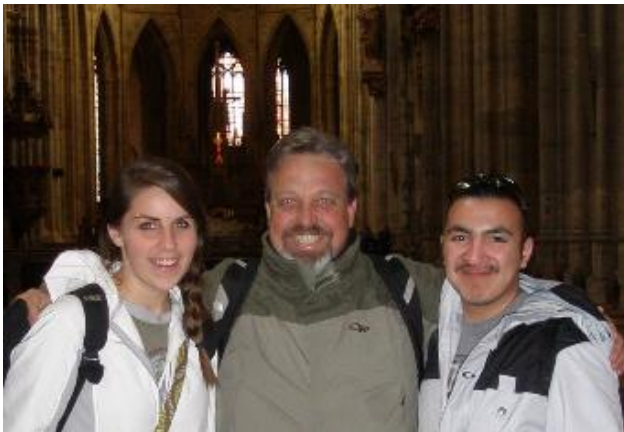




OBOISTS IN PRAGUE

Oboists **Mika Allison** and **Bernardo Navarro**, students of **Ian Davidson**, performed as soloists in a **Bozza's *Call at Dawn*** at the Conservatory of Music in the Palfy Palace, Prague. The chamber music performance featured students and faculty from the Prague Conservatory of Music (Czech Republic), State Conservatory of Music (Slovakia), University of the Pacific (California), and Texas State University. Prague Conservatory is one of the leading music institutions in Europe, and counts among its alumni composers Dvorak, Smetana, and Janacek.



GUITAR COMPOSITIONS

Clear Note Publications published guitarist **Mark Cruz's** original guitar quartet composition, *Prism*.

Cruz's piece, *Swings of Mood* was awarded first prize by the Austin Classical Guitar Society's 2011 composition competition. It was premiered on April 2nd by a one hundred-piece guitar orchestra as part of the final concert for the ACGS concert series.

MORE CRUZ NEWS

Mark Cruz was a featured artist for the Sixth Annual Guitar Orchestra Workshop in Plano, Texas, where he performed a solo concert of original compositions, gave a master class and theory class. In addition, a student guitar orchestra performed his arrangements.

MYSTERIUM SETS SAIL FOR THE SUN

Texas Mysterium for New Music performed on February 24 at Loyola University in New Orleans. Directed by Dr. **Russell Riepe**, the ensemble included students **Briana Dunn**, **Lucas Ross**, **Matthew O'Neill**, **William Henry**, and music faculty **Richard Hall** and Dr. **David Pino**. Their program featured compositions by Ross, O'Neill, Riepe, Texas State alumna **Jennifer MacLachlen**, and improvisatory multimedia works designed by Hall, Henry, and Riepe. The concert ended with a



joint performance of the Loyola University Electro-Acoustic Ensemble and the Texas Mysterium performing Stockhausen's *Set Sail for the Sun* with 16 laptop computers, flute, clarinet and synthesizer.

COMP COMP CONC[ert]

The 7th Annual Student Composition Competition Concert April 10 featured new pieces composed by **Phillip Gilmore**, **Joshua Wiesbrod-Torres**, **Lucas Ross**, **Jose Garza**, **Joshua Arrieta**, **Ryan Walker**, **Thomas Mann**, and **Damian Garcia**. All scores were critiqued and judged by a panel of three outside experts, who selected as winners Joshua Arrieta, Jose Garza, and Lucas Ross (his third win). The competition was organized by Dr. **Charles Ditto**.

DITTO

Charles Ditto's duet *Pas de Deux* was performed at the Society of Composers, Inc. Region VI New Music Festival at the University of Central Missouri, April 9. Performers were UCM faculty Sheri Mattson, oboe, and James Gai, clarinet.

IT'S MAJOR PEÑA TO YOU, SOLDIER

With less than 9 years in the U.S. Army, Captain **Leonel A. Peña**, Texas State music alumnus from Edinburg, Texas, has been selected by the Army for promotion to Major. He has the distinction of being the youngest person in history as well as the first and only Hispanic to be selected and serve as a conductor for the U.S. Army Bands Program. In April of 2009



he assumed his current duties as Conductor and Officer-in-Charge of the U.S. Army Soldiers' Chorus and Associate Bandmaster of the U.S. Army Field Band, "The Musical Ambassadors of the Army" who serve as the Army's premier touring musical organization. He has participated in five national concert tours to over 30 states and has performed in all imaginable venues, from the finest concert halls to school gymnasiums, arenas and stadiums.

AMAZING SPRING!

Senior Voice Performance major **Christopher Brandon Morales**, 2010-11 recipient of the Theresa Gordon Scholarship Award for Excellence in Opera, and student of Brigitte Bellini, began January as the winner of the Texas State Aria Competition. February saw him win 5th place in the Grand Concours de Chant International Vocal Competition. He soon learned that he had been accepted to the Cincinnati Conservatory, and given a substantial scholarship for when he arrives in the Fall. In March he was offered the roles of *Masetto* in Don Giovanni and *Bill Sykes* in *Oliver!* for the Utah Festival Opera to be performed in June and July, and won the Emerging Artist Competition at Sparkling City Light



Opera, where he was offered the role of Bob in *Old Maid and the Thief* for August. The first week of April he received great acclaim as the brooding *Frank* in Texas State Opera Theatre's smash, *Street Scene*. In the second week of April he won his division at South Texas NATS competition, and was awarded the Alice Dutcher

Thornton Certificate of Honor for Most Professional Promise. He currently stands as a Semi-Finalist in the Lois Alba Aria Competition in Houston, and prepares for his Senior Recital on April 17. Whew!

MUSIC COMPUTER GRANT

Upon recommendation by the Academic Computing Committee and endorsement for funding by the Faculty Senate, the Provost and the Vice President of Information Technology have approved a \$53,830 grant to upgrade equipment in the Music Computer Center. **Hank Hehmsoth**, who directs the center, wrote the successful proposal.

H PROJECT ROCKS OUT

Hank Hehmsoth and his "H Project" jazz ensemble performed during the South By Southwest Festival Jazz Showcase March 19 at Sullivan's Jazz Bar.

TROMBONE OUTREACH

Professor **Charles R. Hurt** recently presented a "Trombone Day" at John J. High School in San Antonio at the invitation of Mr. Frank Lozano, Director of Bands. The "Trombone Days" involve private lessons, master classes, section rehearsals, and recitals. As part of the on going outreach initiative sponsored by the School of Music, Professor Hurt has presented "Trombone Days" at Hays High School, Lehman High School and Canyon High School this semester.



BUTCH AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Butch Miles, often featured with jazz groups around the world, appeared in February as a featured soloist with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, one of the premier jazz groups in the U.S., with a concert season patterned after symphony orchestras. To read more, visit the following link:

<http://www.jazzartsgroup.org/columbus-youth-jazz/columbus-jazz-orchestra-honors-the-three-bs-of-jazz-with-basie-buddy-benny-featuring-butch-miles-ken-peplowski-2/>