

Hornist wins in Austin

Senior **Esteban Garcia** won the Undergraduate Concerto Competition at the Mid-South Regional Horn Workshop at UT-Austin on April 5. Esteban competed against 20 other undergraduate horn players from universities such as Utah State, Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, and UT-Austin.



Left to right: graduate winner Andrea Denis; international horn soloist David Thompson; Esteban; and high school winner Eric Basset

Fulbright Specialist works with Braille

Faculty member **Hank Hehmsoth** is a member of the U.S. government-sponsored exchange program to distribute Braille Music Notation Guides among Latin American universities and libraries. The guides, music examples, exercises, and a double CD with recorded examples, will expand the access to inclusive education for all musicians with visual impairments.



Hank is a Fulbright Specialist and member of The U.S. Department of State Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) which provides grants to carry out public service projects that promote shared values and innovative solutions to global challenges.

Students and prof perform, explore Italy

In March, oboe Professor **Ian Davidson** and students **Alison Von Der Ahe**, **Cori Sheldon**, **Ashley Knopp**, and **Alexis Bauer** joined with students and faculty from the University of the Pacific for concerts at the Music Conservatories in Venice and Sienna, Italy. In addition, between concerts, the group visited Rome, Florence (pictured here), San Geminiano, Molto Regiano, and Assisi.



Guitarists win in Brownsville

Texas State's graduate guitar student trio placed first at the Brownsville Guitar Ensemble Festival and Competition on March 27. The trio also premiered a new composition, *Swarm*, by faculty member **Mark Cruz**.

left to right:
Onur Alakavuklar,
Paul Fuentes
and **David Lester**



Cruz did a lecture-recital on his music at the Brownsville festival on March 29. Also, the e-publication *Fingerstyle 360* just released their latest issue, which includes an interview with Mark Cruz's reflections as a guitarist and composer.

Oboist in Laredo

Oboe student **Dawn Iglesias** had a big week. On April 5 she played second oboe with the Laredo Philharmonic in a performance of works by Tchaikovsky and Revueltas, working alongside professors from Texas A&M - Kingsville, A&M International, A&M - Corpus Christi, and freelance musicians from San Antonio and Austin. Later that week, she was at the Paramount Theater in Austin playing for a new film "Icarus". See next story . . .



The edge of time

On April 10 at the Paramount Theatre in Austin, faculty **Hank Hehmsoth**, pianist, and **Keith Winking**, trumpet, premiered a new score by Phillip Glass, *Icarus at the Edge of Time*, with a 33-piece orchestra including **Dawn Iglesias** and conducted by former Texas State faculty John Mills, performing with the film, narrated live by Brian Greene.

Butchkrieg

Butch Miles took an all-star, international jazz sextet on a two-week tour of Switzerland and Germany in March performing in nightclubs, schools, hotels, concert venues, casinos, an automobile manufacturing plant and even two



banks. The group, including two other Americans, a Finn, a Brit and a German, swung up a storm. A whirlwind 13 concerts in 17 days culminated in a wonderful sold-out last show presented in a German school outside Stuttgart. The following day Butch returned to the United States and the next day was back on campus!

Book report

School of Music Director **Thomas Clark**'s latest book, *Larry Austin: Life and Works of an Experimental Composer* (Borik Press), got a recent review in *Computer Music Journal*, Vol. 38 Issue 1. Reviewer Annea Lockwood wrote, "Thomas Clark's study of Larry Austin's life and works is excellent, succinct yet comprehensive, and will be an important resource for other composers and researchers for years to come."



Costa Rican judge

The International Piano Competition "María Clara Cullell" has named Texas State piano professor **Jason Kwak** a member of the Jury of the VIII Edition of this contest, citing his "impressive musical career" that "would greatly increase the international acknowledgement of the competition." Since its inception in 2000, the International Piano Competition "María Clara Cullell" has created new opportunities for musical learning and dialogue among piano students and teachers in Latin America. Conceived as an incentive for piano students working in difficult environments, the event is organized by a Costa Rican non-profit organization, with the support of the School of Music of the University of Costa Rica.



SciFi sax

Todd Oxford's solo CD performances are broadcast on SciFi4Me.com's new live radio show running Mondays-Thursdays 10:30-11:00 PM Central Standard Time. The program can be heard at www.blogtalkradio.com/scifi4me



He appears on April 19 as a member of the Synaesthesia Saxophone Quartet. The group will be the featured guest soloists with the Austin Symphonic Band.



Country music review

Dr. **Kevin Mooney**'s review essay on Barry Mazor's *Meeting Jimmie Rodgers* (Oxford University Press, 2009) and Jocelyn Neal's *The Songs of Jimmie Rodgers: A Legacy in Country Music* (Indiana University Press, 2009) was published in the international *Journal of the Society for American Music* 8/1 (2014).

Opera grant and internship

Dr. **Samuel Mungo**, Director of Opera Studies, has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, for his research toward a world premiere of an opera on the life and achievements of Lady Bird Johnson. The premiere, tentatively scheduled for Spring 2016, will include a libretto by Pulitzer Prize winning writer and librettist Sheldon Harnick, who wrote *Fiddler on the Roof*.



Texas State Opera Theatre has been chosen to host the winner of the National Opera Association Opera Stage Director Internship for 2014. Joshua Miller, chosen from a national list of applicants, will be in residence at Texas State for the Fall 2014 semester and will be deeply involved in the Fall 2014 opera production, *Speed Dating Tonight!* by Michael Ching.

Winning compositions

First-prize winners of the School of Music's 10th Annual 2014 Student Composition Competition are (from left below): **Cesar Gonzalez** – *Three Pieces for Piano*; **Marina Dominquez** – *La Selva* for percussion ensemble; and **Michael Hoffer** – *Pulsum* for trombone quartet.



Can you spell Xishuangbanna?

A delegation from the Texas State School of Music travelled to Xishuangbanna, China, to take part in one of the largest festivals in South China, for New Year 1376 in the Dai calendar. Jazz faculty **Russell Haight** and **Russell Scanlon** joined students **Brandon Guerra** and **Arthur Carvajal II** for jazz quartet performances, and piano student **Keer Wang** joined **Washington Garcia** performing a recital at the main college in Xishuangbanna as part of an invitation from the governor. Additionally, the jazz quartet was featured at the ceremony to open the festival in front of an audience of approximately 2,000 people. Left to right:

Carvajal, Guerra, Wang, Scanlon, Garcia, Haight



Master oboist in Houston

Oboist **Ian Davidson** has been invited to present a master class as part of the Houston Master Class Summer Series. The Series, now in its fifth season, brings master teachers from around the country to work with oboe students of all ages at the oboe studio of University of Houston Oboe Professor Anne Leek. In addition to Dr. Davidson, the roster this season includes professors from Indiana University, University of North Texas, Louisiana State University, as well as principal oboists from the Dallas and Houston Symphonies.



Conductor in Port Elizabeth

During spring break, Dr. **Joey M. Martin**, director of choral activities, spent seven days in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, continuing his research and study of the music of Péter Louis van Dijk. As a guest of the Music Department at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, Dr. Martin offered three lectures and three master classes with the NMMU Chamber Choir directed by Junita Lamprecht van Dijk (front row right).

Where's Waldo? (Dr. Martin is front and center.)



Outstanding teacher

Dr. **Washington Garcia** received recognition from the Austin District Music Teachers Association for Outstanding Collegiate Teaching Achievement. Dr. Garcia will represent ADMTA in this category at the state level next June at the TMTA convention.

