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Bill Mahrt Celebration

On March 16, the Stanford Early Music Singers staged a celebration of Professor William Mahrt’s 80th birthday in Braun Rehearsal Hall. Over 100 “Friends of Bill” from the department, his campus friends, and former students, to those who know him through his more than 40 years directing the St. Ann Gregorian Choir in Palo Alto, came to honor him. Guests came from Florida, Ohio, Washington and Oregon, and it was a joyful gathering featuring musical performances interspersed with commendations for Bill, who has taught at Stanford since he earned his Ph.D. in Early Music in 1969. — Miriam Palm

FOM Music Awards
Concert and Banquet

Saturday, May 18 marked the annual FOM meeting/banquet and two engaging concerts by the talented students who won music prizes in the 2018-19 academic year. Attendees enjoyed a catered buffet dinner and opportunities to meet the students between the two concerts at 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm in Campbell Recital Hall.

We heard instrumentalists and vocalists performing works by Chopin, Schumann, Mozart, Donizetti, Mahler, Kapustin, Rota, He, Schoenberg, Maslanka, Ravel, Liapunov, Sendheim, Rogers & Hammerstein, and Du Prez. Performers at the first concert included a saxophone quartet, two pianists, and two sopranos, a tenor, and a flutist. The second concert encompassed five pianists, a harpist, and a guzheng player. The names of the award winners are listed below:

• John Nguyen, piano (Humanities & Sciences Undergraduate Prize)
• Cassidy McCleary, soprano (Marie Gibson Prize)
• Joshua Spayd, Benton Case, Angela Song, Thomas Colburn, saxophones (Friends of Music Chamber Music Award)
• Miles Petrie, tenor (Humanities & Sciences Undergraduate Prize)
• Nnanmi Odita-Honnah, flute (Dan Robinson Prize)
• Lorin Phillips, mezzo-soprano (Rita Taylor Prize)
• Vivian Lou, piano (Robert M. Golden Medal)
• Vivian Tang, harp (Carol and Peter Polk Music Award)
• Bingyi Wang, guzheng (Friends of Music Graduate Prize)
• Adrian Liu, piano (Patrick Butler Prize)
• Taide Ding, piano (Carol and Peter Polk Music Award)
• Derek Chung, piano (Blew-Culley-LaFollette Prize)
• Jeffrey Chang, piano (Humanities & Sciences Undergraduate Prize)
• Patrick Worasaran, piano (Friends of Music Graduate Prize)

Our talented students range from freshmen to upperclassmen and graduate students. Their majors include music, theater arts, computer science, physics, chemical engineering, economics, mathematics, biology, and philosophy & religious studies. FOM is pleased to be able to support students maintaining their musical skills while studying a variety of disciplines across the university. — Miriam Palm
“As a Stanford student serious about music but not planning to pursue it professionally, I found the SLSQ Seminar a rare opportunity to get a glimpse of what it means to make music at the highest level. It was motivating and inspiring to work with, learn from, and play with faculty and students from leading conservatories, and gave me new insights into my own musical development. Michael, Pedja, and Graham put their heart and soul into mentoring us. As was the case for me last year, the SLSQ Seminar was once again the highlight of my summer. Thank you for your support of the SLSQ Seminar, as it would not have been able to attend without the generous financial support provided by the Seminar. I hope to attend in my remaining summers as a student, and would like to give back to the community in the future.” — Lawrence Chiou

“The SLSQ Seminar has been a wonderful opportunity for me to play with an amazing student quartet, and I met many Stanford musicians who I’m looking forward to playing with in the future. I’ll never forget being coached by Frederik from the Danish String Quartet — I am truly grateful for this opportunity to get a glimpse of what it means to make music at such a high level with old and new friends. I received a wonderful experience playing chamber music at such a high level with old and new friends. I received a phenomenal experience playing working with all of the inspiring faculty.” — Lawrene Chang

“I was a biology Ph.D. student, so I spend most of my year in the lab rather than the practice room. The seminar was a rare and wonderful opportunity for me to play with an amazing student quartet, and I met many Stanford musicians who I’m looking forward to playing with in the future. I’ll never forget being coached by Frederik from the Danish String Quartet — I am truly amazed and thankful that I was able to meet and learn from such a world-renowned musicians right here at Stanford.” — Benjamin Parks

“The SLSQ Seminar has displayed to me the perfect balance between encouragement and challenge. The seminar inspired me to continue pursuing music as a passion, and I will continue to take music lessons and attend concerts in order to further my musical education. Thank you for helping me along my musical journey.” — Hannah Choi

2019 St. Lawrence String Quartet Summer Chamber Music Seminar

I F YOU HEAR IT, YOU CAN SING IT; if you can sing it, you can play it. That is a theme that we are constantly reminded of during the Stanford Jazz Workshop. I’ve been to the Stanford Jazz summer camp for the past two summers, and it has been an eye-opening experience for me as a young musician. The camp’s focus is to immerse its students in jazz, increase their musicianship and playing ability, and bring all kinds of young musicians together using jazz. A typical day at the Stanford Jazz Workshop consisted of taking all different types of classes that focused on different aspects of being a better musician. We learned to increase our technique, musicianship, theory, rhythm, and the history of jazz. We applied what we learned every day by playing in combos with our fellow campers, and then played on stage for an audience at the end of the week.

What separates the Stanford Jazz Camp from the others I have attended is the amount of jazz we hear. Every day after our classes, we had free access to amazing concerts, and after those concerts, there would be a faculty jam session in the coffee house for another two hours. Those faculty jam sessions were my favorite thing at the camp because I got the opportunity to meet new people and listen to the best live jazz I have ever heard. The more jazz you listen to, the better you are at playing it. The Stanford Jazz Workshop knows this, and surrounds you with jazz as much as possible every day, making the camp great. I would recommend this camp to any young musician looking to learn more and get better at playing jazz and also have a great time staying at a college campus without your parents for a week. — Julian Barnes, jazz guitarist (Age 15)
2019 Chamber Chorale Tour: England and Wales

Immediately after the excitement and bustle of commencement on June 16, the Stanford Chamber Chorale flew to the UK to begin their two-week, six-city tour, June 18–30. With the generous support of the Friends of Music, the 25 singers of the Chorale were given the opportunity to perform at some of the world’s most spectacular cathedrals, chapels, and colleges, blending music written specifically for those spaces with contemporary works by two exciting Stanford-affiliated composers: Julie Herndon and Eric Tuan.

Under the leadership of Stephen M. Sano and accompanied by the internationally acclaimed University Organist Robert Huw Morgan, the Chorale performed five concerts and three choral evensong services over the course of their tour. One highlight was the chance to perform in Ely Cathedral’s Lady Chapel, which boasts an acoustic so perfect for choral music that it is often used to record albums for the likes of John Rutter’s Cambridge Singers. Another was singing in Robert’s hometown of Newport, Wales, where we were warmly greeted with endless tea and cakes at St Woolos Cathedral! In addition, the Chorale was privileged to sing a concert with the Choir of Queen’s College in Oxford, and to share the duties of choral evensong with the choristers of Salisbury Cathedral, thereby strengthening the existing fellowship between Stanford’s premiere choral ensemble and some of the finest musicians in Britain. One other very special connection was renewed when the famed Director of Music at King’s College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury, agreed to lead Chorale in a masterclass for the second tour in a row!

When they weren’t rehearsing or performing, the students of the Chorale enjoyed exploring the places in which they found themselves (often for the very first time). On a couple of occasions, this was made even more enjoyable through the efforts of past members of the choir. Ben Musachio, who is currently pursuing his graduate studies at the University of Oxford, took Chorale on a walking tour of the city of dreaming spires, while David Hole organized a fantastic scavenger hunt all around Winchester city center. The students were also given plenty of opportunities to sample the varied English and Welsh cuisine, with a particular favorite being Steve’s own request: a detour on the way from Winchester to Salisbury for the sake of tasting the roast beef and Yorkshire pudding at The Bear & Ragged Staff, a pub in Romsey (and, being English myself, I can attest that it was the best roast I’ve had besides the one my dad makes!).

A quote from Chorale alto (and Friends of Music scholarship recipient) Courtney Gao sums up how the entire choir felt about the tour: “The Stanford Chamber Chorale’s 2019 summer tour to England was divine. As choral singers, we could explore and enjoy the art form we love most in the country that celebrates it like no other. So much colorful energy and passion for choral music flows from the memories we made together in England. We marveled at the beautiful English countryside that has inspired some of our favorite composers, we sang with and befriended peers of top-tier choral groups, we heard our voices join the echoes of countless performances past in centuries-old cathedrals. Your generosity has translated into lifelong bonds and moments of pure wonder, all of which breathe life into the choral community here at Stanford, as well as to all musical communities we will find ourselves in the future. ‘To the Friends of Music — we thank you with the deepest gratitude for making this tour possible.’”

For photographs of the places and events mentioned above, please visit the Chamber Chorale’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Chorale

2019 Scholarship Recital

The annual FOM Scholarship Recital was held Saturday, March 9, at 2:30 p.m. in Campbell Recital Hall. Scholarship students whose lessons are funded by FOM performed to the delight of an audience of 150. The program included a saxophone solo by Bonneau, played by Thomas Colburn; a cello caprice by Tchaikovsky, performed by Tracy Lang with Lori Lack; a Bach partita for solo violin played by Cameron Twarog; Copland and Brahms songs by soprano Brooke Hale and pianist Rory Lipkis; a Mozart piano concerto performed by Vivian Lou; a Paganini caprice for solo violin played by Robert Hu; a cello sonata by Marcello performed by Blaine Rister on contrabass with pianist Kevin Sun; guitar pieces by Jobim and Guinga performed by Wade Street; and a duet from Oklahoma performed by Cassidy McCleary, soprano, and Timothy Sherlock, tenor. Performers ranged from freshmen to graduate students, with majors including chemical engineering, environmental science, biology, English, electrical engineering, international relations, and computer science.

The resumes of these students are as impressive as their musical talents, and FOM is proud to support their continuing study of music.

— Frances Molyneux, Choral Studies Program Administrator
Treasurer’s Report

FOM’s primary sources of revenue continue to be endowment income and member donations. Each year we distribute nearly all of that as scholarships to music students for lessons, musical tours and SLSQ Seminar participation.

**Revenue: $257,598**

Endowment Income: 83% ($214,413)

Scholarship Donations: 8% ($20,800)

Membership Fees & Donations: 7% ($16,908)

Paid Events: 2% ($5,477)

**Expenses: $267,841**

Lesson Scholarships: 81% ($217,034)

Musical Tour Scholarships: 7% ($20,000)

SLSQ Seminar: 4% ($11,720)

Student Aid & Prizes: 4% ($9,645)

Adult & Elementary School Programs: 2% ($5,355)

Administrative Expenses: 2% ($4,087)
Helping me along my musical journey." — Maria Rengo

The Stanford Jazz Workshop

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The camp’s focus is to immerse its students in jazz, increase their musicianship and playing ability, and bring all kinds of young musicians together using jazz. A typical day at the Stanford Jazz Workshop consisted of taking all different types of classes that focused on different aspects of being a better musician. We learned to increase our technique, musicianship, theory, rhythm, and the history of jazz. We applied what we learned every day by playing in combos with our fellow campers, and then played on stage for an audience at the end of the week.

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The more jazz you listen to, the better you are at playing it. The Stanford Jazz Workshop knows this, and surrounds you with jazz as much as possible every day, making the camp great. I would recommend this camp to any young musician looking to learn more and get better at playing jazz and also have a great time staying at a college campus without your parents for a week. — Julian Baros, jazz guitar participant (Age 15)

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Professor and Mrs. Takeshi and Yoshiko Amemiya
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Dr. Mark Applebaum and Ms. Joan Friedman
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Dr. and Mrs. Richard and Joanne Bogart
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Harriet Wu
Marilou Yam
Tori and Douglas Young
Professor Richard Zare and Ms. Susan Zare
Bill Mahrt Celebration

Bill Mahrt (center) with his sister Kathy Breunon and her husband, Tom

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Upcoming Events

The annual Holiday Musicales is scheduled for Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 pm in Memorial Church. This year’s performances will include the Stanford Chamber Chorale, organ and harp selections, and orchestral music with a holiday flavor featuring members of the Stanford Philharmonia. Please attend this event that serves as one of FOM’s revenue streams.

“Adventures in Music,” a program for elementary school children, will feature Stanford violin lecturer Dawn Harms. The event will be held Monday, February 24, 2020 at 9:30 am in Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

Our Scholarship Recital featuring music lessons students whose lessons are supported by Friends of Music funds will be held March 7, 2020 at 2:30 pm in Campbell Recital Hall.

FOM Music Awards Concert and Banquet

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FOM is pleased to be able to support students maintaining their musical skills while studying a variety of disciplines across the university. — Miriam Palm