Key Notes: The Newsletter of the Department of Music

March 1, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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**Georgia Southern Chorale** is asking for alumni, parents, and friends to help support student travel to our competition in Europe, 2019. Our hope is that with your support all 32 talented student musicians will be able to travel across Austria and Germany this upcoming May and June, ultimately bringing home a big victory for the Eagles!

With your help, we can reach our goal of raising $5,000 through our crowdfunding site. Every dollar will help us reach our goal and your support is greatly appreciated!

https://www.givecampus.com/schools/GeorgiaSouthernUniversity/southern-chorale-travel-fund

For additional information about the trip in 2019, please contact Dr. Shannon Jeffreys at csjeffreys@georgiasouthern.edu

**ALUMN FEATURES**
Music Major alum, Eric Spencer returns to Georgia Southern performing with “Legally Blonde, the Musical” orchestra.

Eric Spencer will return to his Alma Mater, Georgia Southern University as a member of the orchestra performing with “Legally Blonde, the Musical” at the Performing Arts Center on March 4, at 7:30 PM. This is a one-night only performance, as the Statesboro performance is the only one contracted in the state of Georgia.

Eric Spencer graduated from Georgia Southern University with a B. M. in Trombone Performance in 2017. An outstanding trombonist, Eric won several awards, competitions, and departmental scholarships while enrolled at GSU. He was a four-year recipient of the Lewis and Charlene Stewart Jazz Scholarship. Eric also won the Georgia Southern University Symphony Concerto Competition, earning a coveted performance as soloist with the orchestra. Off-campus awards include placing fifth in the International Trombone Association Larry Wiehe Solo Competition during his junior year. Eric placed fourth in the same competition in his senior year. This is an international competition open to university trombone students from around the world. Also during his Junior Year, Eric won the Jazz Trombone Chair in the Disney All-American College Band. This is a national competition co-sponsored by the Walt Disney Corporation and Yamaha Band Instruments. Eric successfully competed with trombonists from major music schools and conservatories throughout the U.S. for the coveted position of Jazz Trombone Chair. As a result, Eric spent the summer working at Disneyland in this band comprised of the top university student musicians in the nation. The band performed in concert with major recording artists and recorded at the iconic Capitol Records building in Hollywood.

Since graduation from Georgia Southern, Eric is very much in demand as a free-
lance trombonist traveling around the globe. He began his work as a professional musician with the Princess Cruise Line. Eric's reputation as a solid trombonist, his impeccable reading ability, and his flexibility with performing varying styles was not lost on the New York theatrical scene. Eric was chosen to be the trombonist for the national touring company of the theatrical production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". This tour included performances in many major and historic music venues throughout the nation. In 2018, Eric began an Asian tour of "Legally Blond, the Musical" beginning in the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. Later in 2018, Eric joined the cast of the revival of "A Chorus Line" for a tour of Japan. He returned to the U.S. late in 2018, finishing the "Grinch" tour, and was booked for the U.S. run of "Legally Blond, the Musical". In between these tours, Eric remained busy with several projects including recording a PBS Christmas Special entitled "Wycliffe Gordon and Friends". Dr. Rick Mason, Associate Professor of Trombone and Director of the Jazz Ensemble stated that Eric is one of the finest musicians he’s had the pleasure of teaching. “Eric is equally at home performing orchestral literature and jazz and rock styles. This ability to adapt to the demands of a wide variety of musical genres will serve him well in what will undoubtedly become a very successful career as a professional musician at the highest levels of his profession. He truly is the epitome of what a performance major should strive to achieve.”

Brittny Hargrove Woods, Alumn from the Armstrong Campus, was selected from among applicants around the country to participate in the Director's Chorus at the national convention of the American Choral Directors Association at their biannual convention in Kansas City.

FACULTY FEATURES
On February 4th Dr. Reed Hanna, Instructor of Double reeds was a guest artist at the University of Florida where he presented a bassoon masterclass and a full recital for students and faculty.

**Dr. Allen Henderson** attended the CMS Summit 2.0 on Reimagining the 21st Century Music School in January. He is President of the Board of the American Traditions Vocal Competition in Savannah which is in its 26th year and takes place February 18-22. He is on sabbatical this semester and will be teaching in Hong Kong and Singapore in March and delivering a keynote address at the Singapore Voice Pedagogy Conference. He was also named to the search committee for the Conductor of the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Dr. Diane Kessel**, will be traveling in June to Boston to present her dissertation research at "Women, Feminists, and Music: Transforming Tomorrow Today," the annual conference held by the International Alliance for Women in Music. The presentation will be a lecture/performance called "The Kingma System Flute: Redesigning the 19th Century Flute for the 21st Century" and will serve to recognize flutemaker Eva Kingma’s contributions to the world of flute design.

**STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
Amelia Parker, one of our music education majors, on the Armstrong Campus, has been named an Intern for the Music Education Technology Leadership Academy (MTLA). The MTLA selects 16 interns from around the country, based on a competitive application process, and it is held in conjunction with the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) conference in San Antonio. Interns learn research-based strategies to use music technology to reach students in secondary schools who are non-participants in traditional music ensembles. Interns collaborate on a final capstone project tailored to classroom lesson plans. For more info: https://sites.google.com/view/mtla/home

Amelia traveled to San Antonio, Wednesday-Saturday, February 13-16, 2019. She will share her experience and strategies with our music education majors at a CNAfME meeting later this semester.
Percussionist Dr. Jimmy Finnie, from Indiana State University presented a public masterclass on jazz improvisation to Georgia Southern students. He also preformed as a Guest Artist, with several Department of Music faculty members, Marquese Carter, tenor, Jonathan Murphy, piano, and the Georgia Southern Percussion Ensemble, directed by Matt Fallin, in one of the recitals for “Celebration of African American Music Series”.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN STATESBORO
Mezzo-soprano Rachel Wood has appeared in opera, concert, and recital performances across Canada, the United States, Italy, and the Netherlands. Dr. Wood is a graduate of the Opera Studio Nederland in Amsterdam, where she performed the title role in *The Rape of Lucretia*, La Natura and Endimione (*La Calisto*), and Penelope (*Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria*). At Indiana University, Dr. Wood performed the roles of Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*), Zita (*Gianni Schicchi*), La Zia Principessa (*Suor Angelica*), and Alma March (*Little Women*). Other opera credits include Madame de Croissy (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), Cornelia (*Giulio Cesare*), and Dame Doleful in the Canadian premiere of *Too Many Sopranos*. Dr. Wood has given art song and chamber music recitals throughout North America, and has appeared as a soloist in concert performances with instrumental and choral ensembles. Recent projects include a *Schubertiade* at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with pianists Martha Fischer and Bill Lutes; “A European Landscape of Song” recital with Brian Leeper, baritone, and Myung Hee Chung, piano; and “Fairest Isle,” a recital of English song by Britten and Purcell with soprano Julie Ludwig and pianist Erika Reiman in Ontario, Canada. Most recently, she and pianist Javier Arrebola presented a guest artist recital entitled “Dona Nobis Pacem: Songs of War, Loss, and Hope” at SongFest at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, California, where she was also a featured soloist in performances under the direction of John Harbison and Michael Barrett. In Wisconsin, Dr. Wood has appeared as a soloist with the Madison Bach Musicians, Wisconsin Chamber Choir, Janesville Choral Union, and Whitewater Chamber Players.
Dr. Wood completed her Doctor of Music degree at Indiana University, and holds Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees from the University of Western Ontario. She furthered her studies at the Canadian Operatic Arts Academy, Accademia Europea dell’Opera, and the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy. She has served as a Lecturer of Voice at the University of Western Ontario, and an Associate Instructor at Indiana University. Dr. Wood is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where she teaches studio voice, lyric diction, song literature, and voice pedagogy.
The Choral Department of Georgia Southern will present a concert, "Ireland and Beyond," on Friday, March 8th at 7:30 pm in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, repertoire will include both traditional and contemporary settings of Irish music and text, as well as an eclectic sampling of music from the Southern Chorale, University Singers, Southern Gentlemen, and Southern Sirens. Admission is free and open to the public.
The Georgia Southern Keyboard Area presents its spring recital on March 11 at 7:30 PM in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall. This recital, which is free and open to the public, will feature keyboard pieces composed by Renaissance, Baroque, and Preclassic composers, including the very first piece composed for two pianos.
The Dozier Winds is an Army Music Performance Team that plays over 40 musical missions a year in the Fort Jackson community, the Columbia metro area, and the state of South Carolina. Engagements include military ceremonies, ethnic observances, educational programs, and formal recitals. Members of the group serve in the 282d Army Band as instrumentalists and in various duty positions as required by the Band command team. The Masterclass and concert is free and open to the public.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARMSTRONG
MUSIC AT THE ARMSTRONG CAMPUS

Piano In The ARTS

CROSSROADS, JAZZ MEET CLASSICAL

March 3 at 3:00 p.m.
FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM
STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF FREE ADMISSION WITH EAGLE ID

Georgia Southern University Department of Music Presents

The Savannah Wind Symphony
Spring Concert
Celebrating 41 Years

Tuesday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.
Armstrong Fine Arts Auditorium
Armstrong Campus

Mark B. Johnson
Music director & principal conductor
Guest Conductors
La Sneed
Dowson Edwards
Larry Hyatt

General Admission $15
(Discounts Available)

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/ArmstrongTickets | 912.344.2801 | Monday-Friday, 12-3 p.m.

For a complete schedule of Upcoming Events in the Department, visit

http://cah.georgiasouthern.edu/music/
and click on "Concerts/Events."

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise stated.