

BCU Music News

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Erin Reynolds as Lizzie Currie and Chris Harpenau as Starbuck in BCU's production of *110 in the Shade*.



The Briar Cliff University Singers at the *Witness* concert held on February 13th.

It's the end of the school year!! _____

After several busy and exciting months, the final term at Briar Cliff is over and summer has officially begun. Choir concerts and student recitals have been completed, final projects are turned in, exams have been taken, and we bid a fond farewell to our graduating senior music majors and minors as well as those that have participated in the Cliff Singers, the Chamber Choir, and the Jazz Ensemble during their time at Briar Cliff.

Alumni updates _____

Christina Koudelka Martinez '02 is a staff accompanist at Briar Cliff University where she plays weekly for many voice students. It is wonderful to have her back on campus.

In December, John Flanery '95 graduated from University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY, with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting. Dr. Flanery currently works as Assistant Professor of Music and

Assistant Director of Choral Activities at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Ann Adams Hodgins '87 has been an adjunct teacher at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. In the fall, she will be returning to school to begin a doctorate program in Leadership and Innovation. This program is designed to equip educational leaders, innovators and scholars with understanding and skills to lead, change and examine its impact in the workplace. Congratulations to Ann, who was one of 20 candidates selected for this program.

Rachel Albrecht '05 will be married in July to a native Texan and moving to South Carolina where she will be a Navy wife. Hopefully, she will be teaching on the Navy base and be able to start a private voice studio.

Dr. Amy Lynn Lukken Luckenbill '97 hosted the Briar Cliff Singers for a concert at the Christian Church, Overland Park, KS, where she directs choral music.

The following alumni will be assisting with the Pre-All-State Camp in August of this year on the Briar Cliff

Campus: Dr. John Flanery, Jake Delfs, Brian Johnson, Jayne Koch, Christopher Miller, and Rachael Wragge.

Concerts and other goings on

The first concert of the New Year, titled *Witness*, took place on February 13th at First Presbyterian Church. With Dr. Burton conducting and Dr. Owens at the piano and organ, the Briar Cliff Singers and Chamber Choir performed works ranging from motets by Bruckner and Mozart to arrangements of African-American Spirituals and a traditional Laotian song.

The Cliff Singers and Chamber Choir went on their annual tour, this year's theme being the *Mighty Midwest Choir Tour*, from February 24th through 28th. The choirs performed in a variety of venues in the cities and towns of Sioux City, Iowa; Blair, Nebraska; Omaha, Nebraska; Red Oak, Iowa; Des Moines, Iowa; Ankeny, Iowa; Overland Park, Kansas; and St. Louis, Missouri.

On March 13th, music major Gabriel Alves from Recife-Pernambuco, Brazil, presented his Senior Recital to a full Meis auditorium. The first half of the recital consisted of classical works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff. The second half of the recital featured jazz selections by Walter Gross, Michel Camilo, as well as an original piece by Mr. Alves.

On April 16th, Alex Hoefling, Lina Luangrath, Jenna Richter, and Molly Tullis entered the Lewis and Clark NATS Student Auditions. All four students advanced to the semi-final round and Alex and Lina were selected to sing in the Final Recital. The students were accompanied by Jeremy Owens and Christina Martinez.

A special service/concert was held on Palm Sunday, April 17th, in Our Lady of Grace Chapel. Revolving around readings of *The Way of the Cross* by Paul Claudel and translated by J. Eric Swenson, the program featured Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* for women's chorus accompanied by a string quintet with organ continuo. Soloists in the work included BCU music majors Lina Luangrath and Molly Tullis. Also presented were three famous works arranged for men's chorus: *If ye love me* by Thomas Tallis, *Set me as a seal* by René Clausen, and *El yivneh hagailil* by Peter Sozio.

On May 12th, the *Student Conductors' Recital* occurred in Our Lady of Grace Chapel. The Chamber Choir performed a full program of well-known choral selections under the batons of Briar Cliff music majors

Gabriel Alves, Chris Hanson, Alex Hoefling, and Zach Thomas. The recital was a direct application of cumulative studies from the conducting courses the students had taken throughout the year.

This spring, in a joint venture between the Music and Theater Departments, Briar Cliff produced the Broadway musical *110 in the Shade* from May 5th to the 8th. The musical, written by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, is about a spinster who explores her relationship with a dynamic stranger in a dusty Western small town. Several music students had roles in the musical and Dr. Day, Dr. Burton, and Dr. Owens were involved in the production.

On May 9th, the Briar Cliff Jazz Ensemble presented their final performance of the year at El Fredo Pizza in Sioux City. The ensemble entertained a full room of well wishers and several pleasantly surprised diners with a plethora of jazz standards.

The Chamber Choir, under the direction of Dr. Burton, provided special music for the Honor's Convocation ceremony in the Our Lady of Grace Chapel on May 12th. The choir performed the processional hymn, the *Star-Spangled Banner*, and other special music.



Larissa Larsen as Snookie and Alex Hoefling as Jimmy Currie in BCU's production of *110 in the Shade*.

The final performance of the Briar Cliff choirs occurred at the Baccalaureate Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Epiphany on May 20th. Under the direction of Dr. Burton and BCU music majors Chris Hanson, Alex Hoefling, and Gabriel Alves, the choirs performed the prelude music, all of the service music, and special music for communion. Two trumpets (Mr. Robert Gibson and Rolf

Olson) and a handbell choir were employed for Sr. Mary Day's arrangement of the congregational hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King*. The trumpets were

additionally used in the rousing recessional, C. Hubert H. Parry's *I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me*.

About the faculty

The Faculty Development Annual Commissioned Lecture was given by Dr. Mary Day on April 26th. The lecture-recital, titled "I Hate Music... But I Like to Sing!", was a combination of a musical selections and several readings, which were given by Dr. Jeanne Emmons. She has been involved in a variety of service projects: coordinating a workshop in Franciscan Theological Tradition for Briar Cliff employees and Franciscan Sisters from Dubuque held on June 1st and 2nd; selecting the programs for the upcoming 2011-12 season for the Sioux City Chamber Music Association; and coordinating the 25th Annual Pre-All-State Choral Music Camp. In June, she will be attending board meetings of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) in Jacksonville, Florida, in her role as Vice President of Discretionary Funds and Field Activities.

Dr. Richard Steinbach has been concertizing across the North American continent. Lately, Dr. Steinbach has performed concerts with Brett Deubner, a solo violist based in the New York area and member of the New Jersey Symphony, at the Sioux City Art Center and on the "Crescendo Concert Series" in Omaha. Also, he performed duo piano concerts with Howard Helvey in Toronto, Canada in May and in El Paso Texas in February. This summer, Dr. Steinbach will perform a solo concert of new piano works at the College Music Society's International Conference in Seoul, South Korea.

Dr. Sean Burton was recently appointed Division Chairperson of Arts and Humanities at Briar Cliff for which he administers the departments of Art, Mass Communications, Modern Languages, Music, Theatre, and Theology/Philosophy. In January, Dr. Burton adjudicated for the Siouxland Youth Symphony's Concerto Contest. In March, Dr. Burton, along with Briar Cliff music majors Alex Hoefling and Zach Thomas, attended the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Chicago, Illinois. In the same month, Dr. Burton presented "Journeying Beyond 'Publish or Perish'" at the Great Plains Regional Conference of the College Music Society in Omaha, Nebraska. In April, he adjudicated for District Music Contest (large group and solo/small ensemble) in Columbus, Nebraska.

Dr. Jeremy Owens has been engaged in a variety of different opportunities in Sioux City. In March, Dr. Owens adjudicated the Federation of Music Clubs Sonata Festival at Morningside Presbyterian Church. On April 17th, Dr. Owens performed the organ part for Theodore Dubois' *Seven Last Words of Christ* at Grace United Methodist Church. He also accompanied oboist Greg Drilling, a senior at North High School, in a recital at Grace United Methodist Church on May 15. Dr. Owens played the organ for the Honor's Convocation ceremony and the Baccalaureate Liturgy, as well as playing the "Mighty Wurlitzer" for the Commencement ceremony. This summer, Dr. Owens will be traveling to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to play piano for the American Ballet Theater's Summer Intensive Camp.

Meet Gabriel Alves



Gabriel Alves graduated from Briar Cliff University on May 21st. Some of his thoughts on BCU are found to the right.

"Graduating from an American university was my dream since I became a teenager. I always loved to study and make music along with high quality musicians and, at BCU, I was able to do that. Briar Cliff always challenged me to do my best, not only in music but in any other class I've taken, and I've learned so much that way. Thanks to God and to Briar Cliff, now I can realize another dream which is to attend graduate school."

--Gabriel Alves, Class of 2011

Editor's note: Mr. Alves will begin his master's degree in jazz studies at Northern Illinois University this fall, where

he is the recipient of a full scholarship and graduate assistantship.



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Save the date for coming events _____

- **25th Annual BCU Pre-All-State Camp**—August 7-10, 2011
- **Briar Cliff Christmas at the Orpheum Concert**—
December 3, 2011
- **Music of the Masters in Italy**—Briar Cliff University
Singers on tour throughout Italy, May 20-29, 2012

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the Music Department here at Briar Cliff. We enjoy meeting you at University activities and welcome your visits to the department. Please keep us informed about your activities and other news.

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