

Fall 2017

Note Worthy

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#11

Note from the First Chair



DON HLUS
MUSIC DEPARTMENT
CHAIR

This September, the KPU music department will be celebrating its 25th year helping upcoming musicians develop their artistic voice and establish careers in a wide variety of fields within the music industry. On behalf of the KPU music department, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the music faculty—past and present—for their contribution to the growth and success of the KPU music program. Because of you, young and talented musicians are choosing KPU to help them in realising their personal and professional artistic goals.

As an institution, we have witnessed many changes, including becoming a university college in 1995, and then being designated a polytechnic university in 2008. Our music program has also evolved as we keep pace with the changes in the music industry. To this end, this second issue of *Noteworthy* features the profile of **Dr. Gordon Cobb**, who is our new music technology, audio recording, and music video production instructor. He is helping our students transition from being a music student to a working professional. Although he is our most recent addition to the KPU music faculty, he is a seasoned professional and we feel incredibly lucky to have him in the family.

As we look towards the future, we also recognize how the musical traditions of the past have provided us the foundation for exploring the future. In this second issue of *Noteworthy*, we also feature Jane Hayes, who has been instrumental in helping the KPU music program establish a program that has seen our alumni experience many personal and

professional successes. Jane is entering her twenty-fifth year here at KPU (yup, she has been here since the doors of the Langley campus opened) and she shares her thoughts and perspectives, not only as she reminisces about our past, but also looks ahead to what the next twenty-five years might bring.

As a department, we are most proud of our music alumni. The students—you—are why we are here and we have never forgotten that. In this issue, we also catch up with one of our Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts grads. **Karin Timmerman** (Deddens) graduated in the fall of 2014 and she shares with us what she is up to now and how her experiences here at KPU prepared her for her current endeavours.

If you are a KPU music alumni, please let us know about your continued successes. Even though you have left KPU and entered the next stage of your career, we want to continue supporting you in your musical endeavours. We love hearing from you and want to acknowledge your successes on our music alumni page. We might even feature you in our next issue of *Noteworthy*.

In recognition of the **KPU Music Department's 25th Anniversary**, we are inviting our alumni, faculty, family and friends to come celebrate with us at a special event on **Saturday, March 24, 2018**. Details about the celebration will be posted on our website as they become available. Please mark the date in your calendar and come celebrate with us.

Musically yours,
Don Hlus | Chair, Music Department

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A close-up portrait of Jane Hayes, a woman with short, wavy blonde hair and glasses, smiling slightly. She is wearing a purple top. The background is dark and out of focus, showing parts of a piano keyboard and a lamp.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Jane Hayes

Jane Hayes Piano Instructor

What are three highlights of the past twenty-five years teaching at KPU?

Seeing so many of our former students firmly established in their communities. In our days as Kwantlen College and Kwantlen University College, I would often run into our former students pursuing degrees at UBC, UVic, University of Manitoba, York University and McGill among others. But now, so many of them have flourishing businesses - Anna Vavilova with the World of Music and Arts in Richmond; Marya Ricker (MacAulay) with the Tri-City School of Music; Queenie Cormier (Cheng) with Music Qube Education Centre; Vashti Fairburn with the Music Box in New Westminster - not to mention those students who have gone into teaching elementary and secondary school.

Being nominated twice by students before receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award for the Faculty of Arts in 2015. Knowing that what we do every day can have an impact on our students in ways that we don't always see is humbling and makes me bring renewed enthusiasm and commitment to every hour of teaching and coaching.

Watching some of my students exceed their wildest dreams. Best moments - Marya MacAulay appearing with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, after winning a competition judged by an esteemed panel of judges. The AJA Trio (pianist Andrea Pedro; clarinetist Alex Chernata; violinist Julie Lin) phoning me first from Powell River to say they had won the Provincials; then from Edmonton when they won the National Level Competition for Chamber Music.

How has your teaching changed over the past twenty-five years?

Quite simply, I had to move with the times. Students now are not content to just receive information because the instructor deemed it valuable. The instructor has to deliver the material in such a way that it has validity and purpose. Teaching has to be practice-based not just theoretical. I developed my own keyboard skills curriculum to address the short-comings of traditional class piano. The students don't just learn scales and a couple of pieces; they take away skills that can be used in activities that they will find themselves participating in. I've had to embrace technology (though I have far to go) and use it as a valuable teaching tool. I also have had to lead by example. I stopped being afraid to demonstrate anything in front of students, I allowed myself to make mistakes, to show that I am a "normal" human being with a family and a keen interest in hockey, the Olympics, and Dr. Who!

What three things have most benefited you over these past twenty-five years that you learned from the teachers you studied under?

Teach music not just your instrument. As a pianist, you can get so bogged down in notes, and speed, that you miss the larger picture. Do not play a note without musical intent and knowledge. Use all of your knowledge. Don't limit yourself. Take advantage of all opportunities to be with fellow musicians. Learn from all; never operate in isolation; music is social.

Know the world around you. Work with it, not against it!



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Gordon Cobb

Gordon Cobb Music Technology Instructor

What are you most excited about bringing to the KPU music program?

As the music technology instructor in the KPU Music department, my classes are meant to serve as an extension or compliment to the other courses offered to our students as they advance and evolve within the program. I bring with me a strong interest and background in interdisciplinary collaboration and the innovative use of technology within a variety of musical practices. Music technology has allowed for me to have a unique and meaningful career as a composer, working with dance companies, filmmakers, ice skaters, and web companies. I learned how to use my skills as a classically trained musician and the affordances provided by music technology to produce and deliver original music to my collaborators and share my work with audiences both on and off line. Some of our local post-secondary music programs silo their music tech programs as distinct and separate pathways but I believe there cannot be one without the other, especially in today's vastly and rapidly changing music industry.

KPU is providing me with the opportunity to create a music video production curriculum for third and fourth year music students. We will be the first music program in North America to offer such a program. Combined with the other music technology courses already offered in the music program, this new music video production course will teach students how to create original

compositions, record them at KPU using audio production technology, and then realize their musical ideas as music videos using DSLR cameras and video editing software. With the students from the MUSI 1102 and MUSI 3602 classes, I have already facilitated the production of a variety of different compositions and music videos that have been showcased on our KPU Music Technology Facebook page. To our delight and surprise, we have reached thousands of Facebook users and had thousands of views, which has allowed for our students to connect with audiences and fans from all over the world.

How do you see the music profession changing or evolving in the next twenty-five years?

In order to thrive as 21st Century musicians, I believe it is essential that our music learners become proficient in what I like to refer to as 'new musical literacies' such as music notation software, music production, video production, and website development. I have the privilege of teaching all of these topics within my classes this year. KPU music students receive a truly holistic education, bringing together traditional musical literacies with new musical literacies. This contemporary and multimodal approach to music learning provides our students with more autonomy and opportunity to become active agents in their own musical development. This is how I see the music profession already changing; with young music artists taking control of the production and distribution of



INTERVIEW WITH
Gordon Cobb (con't)



their work. They can develop their own marketing and social media campaigns, book their own gigs through their websites, and they can connect with online audiences through their music recordings, photography, and videos. This is the world that our graduates will be entering into, so my goal is to help prepare them to work creatively with the ever-changing technology of today so that they can continue to engage with the music industry of the future.

What excites you most about teaching at KPU?

I'm excited about working at a music school within a Polytechnic University program. With a focus on smaller class sizes and learner-centered, interest-driven curricula, I can facilitate open and creative learning environments that explore the practical and relevant application of our student's theoretical and technical skills. We can develop new and culturally relevant forms of musical proficiency and

explore what it means to be musically literate in the age of digital technology, social media, and web 2.0 platforms. My goal is to help our students to find their unique musical selves, and then inspire a more autonomous, entrepreneurial approach to music making. Simply put, I can broaden the scope and employment opportunities for KPU music graduates by giving them some of the skills and resources required to thrive as a musician or music artist in the 21st Century. This hands-on, practical approach to music education is not necessarily a teaching method that I would be afforded at a non-polytechnic university program. My particular skill set is ideal for a polytechnic approach to learning so I feel I am a perfect fit for the KPU Music program. I couldn't be happier to part of the amazing team of instructors in the music faculty, and I look forward to sharing my knowledge and experience with more students in the KPU music program.



If you think KPU is second to other music programs, think again.

Student Successes

KPU Music students performed at the BC Performing Arts Festival Provincial Finals in Kamloops from May 28 to June 1, 2017 and did exceptionally well:

Christopher Knopp - Winner, Senior Piano

Andrea Pedro - Winner, National Canadian Class

Sarah Anderson, soprano; **Ben MacRae**, clarinet; **Andrea Pedro**, piano - Winners, Senior Canadian Music

Gower Sun, violin; **Robin Black**, clarinet; **Wesley Hawkins**, piano - Runners-up (tie), Senior Chamber Music

Sarah Anderson, soprano; **Ben MacRae**, clarinet; **Andrea Pedro**, piano - Runners-up (tie), Senior Chamber Music

IN PHOTO (left to right)

Ben MacRae, Sarah Anderson, Robin Black, Andrea Pedro, Gower Sun, Wesley Hawkins
Christo opp (in front), Samantha Sterkenburg

ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Karin Timmerman

Karin Timmerman

Voice Major, Graduated Fall 2014

Please introduce yourself and briefly tell us what you are working on now.

I am Karin Timmerman, a vocalist and KPU alumni. I graduated from the music department in 2014 with my Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts: Vocal Performance. After spending a few years teaching music at various music institutes and an elementary school, I, along with my husband, decided to further pursue my music career through a Masters degree in Europe. We decided to move to Utrecht, the Netherlands where we have been studying since August 2016. Europe has presented many opportunities. This summer I will be playing the role of Eurilla in Joseph Haydn's opera, Orlando Paladino at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Even in the nine months I have been here, I have been able to participate in the Dutch National Opera Academy's production of Cendrillon by Jules Massenet and also have the opportunity to audition and participate in future projects of local opera companies such as Operagroep The Fat Lady and Opera Spanga.

What is your favourite part of your studies?

The level of performance in Europe sets a very high standard. Many young singers and instrumentalists are very talented and it is wonderful to be surrounded by this level of performance. A great practical thing about Europe is that major cities (therefore major opera or music companies) are incredibly close to each other. For example, a flight from my home to Salzburg, Austria is only an hour and a half, and a train ride to

Paris is only three hours!

What is a fact about your studies that people might find surprising?

One thing that others may not find surprising but that I have learned not to take for granted, is your network. Moving to another country and knowing no one (and therefore no one knowing you) can be quite difficult in the music community and it takes much effort to build professional relationships and musical connections.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next five years? 10 years?

In five years, I hope to have professional and high level performance experience in opera and recital as a soloist within Europe but also back home in Canada. In 10 years, I hope to continue to perform, as well as share my experience and knowledge of music with my community through teaching.

What was your favourite moment at KPU?

The highlight of my degree at KPU would have to be my graduation recital. Due to a very busy season of performances, the KPU auditorium was fully booked. Jered Steeves (baritone and 2014 graduate) and I, were compelled to find other options to perform our recital. We found a venue, organized audience, marketing and promotion, and created the program together. Ending up with a full house and a successful performance was an incredibly rewarding experience.





What was your favourite class at KPU, and why?

Do I have to pick?!

I had a few favourite classes at KPU, one was the History of Jazz and Pop with Jodi Proznick, a class where we not only learned of the origins of Jazz and Pop but we also inquired about what makes music “click” with audiences, what is it all about? This class inspired me and reaffirmed my belief that music is about connection and telling stories. My other favourite class was the Kwantlen Chorus with Gail Suderman. This class was about challenging yourself, being disciplined, being a professional, and most of all serving the music. Without these things, you cannot serve music. I attribute a lot of who I am as a musician to this course and to Gail Suderman.

How has your education at KPU prepared you for what you're doing now?

KPU gave me the space and the encouragement to develop my voice and my musicianship. KPU not only offered high quality education but a healthy and supportive environment, with teachers and fellow students. When a body (and voice) is healthy and happy it can grow to its utmost potential. Most importantly I was mentored and groomed by my voice teachers and academic teachers to be a great professional musician with musicality and heart.



Congratulations to the following students who graduated between October 26, 2016 and May 30, 2017

Convocation

Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts, General

Lauren Eng – Voice

Andrea Pedro – Piano

Matthew Pirozek – Guitar

Joshua Sung – Trombone

Kaesha Lazar – Flute

Alysha Lebrun – Trumpet

Timothy Goertzen – Voice

Diploma in Music General Studies

Heather Purvis - Voice

IN PHOTO (Top, left to right)

Alysha Lebrun, Joshua Sung, Don Hlus (faculty), Lauren Eng, Matthew Pirozek, Kaesha Lazar, Jane Hayes (faculty), Andrea Pedro, Julia Nolan (faculty), Heather Purvis

IN PHOTO (Right, left to right)

Kaesha Lazar, Don Hlus (faculty), Joshua Sung



**Upcoming
Events
Calendar**

KPU Music
Department's
**25th
Anniversary**

Saturday,
March 24, 2018

**For more information,
please visit: kpu.ca/music**

For a complete listing of music events and concerts:

»»» kpu.ca/arts/music/events

 **Noteworthy #1**

KPU MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

