



Performing Arts News

Volume XI, Issue I

Riverland Performing Arts - fostering artistry, creativity, and intellect

Fall 2010

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Be an Angel

YOU can make a difference in the lives of Riverland students by making a contribution to theatre and music scholarships. Donations are made to the Riverland Foundation and may be tax-deductible. Please specify "music scholarships" or "Theatre Angels." Contact the Foundation Office or the Music or Theatre Departments for more information.

30-Second Note

Thanks to Dr. Anne Walker-Willyard, temporary director of choirs, musical director, and voice instructor who filled in for Scott Blankenbaker during his sabbatical. Anne has joined her husband in Overland Park, KS and is teaching at the newly formed Kansas City Vocal Institute.

“Celebrate Tradition” RCC Theatre

As a special part of the Riverland Theatre season, we are featuring past Riverland students in three performances focusing on music, theatre and dance. Riverland Theatre’s new season kicked off with a concert celebrating tradition by inviting back former student Donovan Germain. Donovan is currently singing with Up ‘til 2, a vocal band. Up ‘til 2 opened the season on Saturday, September 25 with an energetic supportive audience. A fresh addition to the music scene, Up ‘til 2 rocks out with unique style. This hard-hitting group of a’capella vocalists is indeed a “band.” Up ‘til 2 recently competed in the 2009 Harmony Sweepstakes competition in Chicago and came back with three award including “Audience Favorite.” As a Riverland student Donovan appeared in several shows including Hamlet, You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown and alumni shows Secret Garden and Jesus Christ Superstar. He was also very active in the Music Department with the College Choir and Instrumental Ensemble.

On January 14 & 15, 2011 Joshua Larson will return to the Riverland stage in his one-man show, The Tragedy of Icarus. Josh recently performed his show at the Fringe Fest in Minneapolis

and received great reviews. The Tragedy of Icarus is an explosion of humorous and heart-rending characters including a Dylanesque troubadour who has been rejected by his audience, a British rocker who feels like a phony and a retired country music superstar who returns to the stage after having a spiritual epiphany. Set in the landscape of a dream, this show is a rocking musical tribute to a brother lost. Josh was also very active in the music and theatre departments while at Riverland, then Austin Community College. In addition to singing with the Briars and College Choir, Josh appeared on stage in The Miracle Worker, Once Upon a Mattress, Grease and several other productions. He also was active in Summerset and appeared as the narrator in the alumni show Blood Brothers.

The last of the alumni-focused part of the 2010-11 season is all about dance. If You Wanna Dance...DANCE! will be performed on March 4, 2011. For the 5th year, Riverland is offering a night of dance in the season. Bryan Gerber, Leslie Weber and Stephanie Kasel will return as fea-

tured artists. They will be joined by the best from local studios to provide a night of dance you won’t want to miss!

Bryan, another very active theatre and music student, appeared in many Riverland, Summerset and alumni shows. His first show was as a PSEO student from Southland when he played Prince Chululongkorn in The King and I. His most recent appearance was in the hilarious alumni show The Producers. He is now an active performer and teacher in the Twin Cities area.

Stephanie appeared as Laurie in Oklahoma! during the 2009-10 season and this past summer was in Joseph for Summerset and the alumni show, A Little Night Music. One of her first shows was Annie when she played Annie. Leslie Weber currently teaches Movement and is the choreographer at Riverland. As a Riverland student Leslie played Ophelia in Hamlet, Rose in How to Succeed, and was in many other productions. During the summers she has appeared in and choreographed many alumni and Summerset productions including Company, Joseph, Proof and The Producers.

Spotlight on Courses

Austin Symphony Orchestra

Students enrolling in MUSC 1121 or 1122 get an unique opportunity to play with the ASO. Austin is one of the smallest communities in the United States to have a vibrant community orchestra. The ASO generally gives four major concerts each season, playing a variety of repertoire, and employs both local and international talent. Recent soloists include Roberto Plano, Konstantin Soukhovetski, and Simon Estes. Riverland students may audition, and if accepted, become members of the orchestra and receive college credit for their participation.

Several of Riverland's applied lesson teachers are also members of the Symphony and Riverland's College Choir has partnered with the ASO several times on concerts.

RCC Theatre Fall Shows

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS

October 8, 9, 14, 15 16 – 7:30 PM

October 10 – 2:00 PM

Based on the popular 1988 film, *DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS* centers on two con men living on the French Riviera. The first is a suave and sophisticated Lawrence Johnson, who makes his lavish living by talking ladies out of their money. The other, a small-time crook named Freddy Benson, more humbly swindles women by waging their compassion with fabricated stories about his grandmother's failing health. An hilarious battle of cons ensues that will keep you laughing, humming and guessing until the end. Recommended for ages 14 and over.

THE MURDER OF LIDICE

November 17-20 – 7:30 PM

November 21 – 2:00 PM

In May, 1942, a man wearing the black uniform of the Gestapo was found dead in the streets of the small town of Lidice, Czechoslovakia. This man was Reinhard Heydrich, one of Hitler's cruel henchmen, who was known as the Hangman because of his many atrocities against mankind. Nobody knows who shot him, but the Nazis decided to use the village of Lidice as an example. On June 10, 1942, the Nazis announced to the world that in reprisal for the murder of the Hangman, the village of Lidice had been destroyed. From this horror story Miss Millay has written one of her greatest dramatic poems which has been adapted for the stage. Recommended for age 12 and over. Tickets: (507) 433-0595

Updates from the Music Department

Question: What do you get when you cross an award-winning concert pianist with an action-adventure movie actor?

Answer: **Konstantin Soukhovetski**.

Konstantin spent Oct 7-11, 2011 in Austin performing with the Austin Symphony Orchestra and making several appearances at local schools and music organizations. He gave two presentations for Riverland music students on Friday, Oct 8. During these presentations he spoke about and played excerpts from the Saint-Saens "Egyptian" piano concerto he was playing with the ASO. He gave musical and historical background about the work and also spoke about his life as a professional pianist and recent foray into motion pictures.

Mr. Soukhovetski studied at the Moscow Central Special Music School and received his BA, MM, and AD from the Julliard School. He has lived in the USA since 1999, though he has performed

throughout the world. He has received numerous awards and prizes in some of the most prestigious international piano competitions. The Riverland Music Department wishes to thank Mr. Soukhovetski for sharing his tremendous talent and contagious enthusiasm for music with our students.



Konstantin Soukhovetski

If you would like to see Konstantin Soukhovetski's transformation from world-class pianist to deadly drug dealer, check out the trailer for his latest movie *Dishonorable Vendetta* on You Tube.

Over the last few years, the **Vocal Ensemble Frequency** has been taking a turn more toward vocal jazz. After last year's acquisition of a new portable sound system, the group has started experimenting with singing with microphones. This involves a rather different technique than does stage

singing, so keep an ear and eye out for them.

Speaking of sound, a **new sound system** was installed in the E102 ensemble rehearsal room in mid-August. Thanks to RCC alum, Theatre Technical Director, and all-around handy guy, Brad Weber, for his invaluable assistance in selecting and installing this equipment.

Riverland Music Instructors **Scott Blankenbaker** and **Griffin Woodworth** attended the National Conference of the College Music Society in Minneapolis, Sept. 23-26. This conference had special foci on community engagement and music technology.

♪ 30-Second Note ♪

Several students have taken advantage of hour-long, informal sessions on using music software programs. So far in Fall 2010 two sessions of "Crash Course in Sibelius" has been offered. Planned for late October is a "Crash Course in Smart Music" with more to follow.

Do Your Homework in Europe on LONDON DASH 19!

British culture comes alive as students of all ages spend 9 days in London and the surrounding area. This travel/study opportunity gives individuals a first hand look at British theatre, art, music and daily culture of the United Kingdom.

You may wish to tour with faculty members or discover on your own the great sights of London, including Trafalgar Square, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the British Museum and other historic sights. Side trips to Paris and Scotland are also available.

This course may be taken for either 2 or 4 credits in Theatre or Music. For more information, call Jerry Girton at 434-7390 or Scott Blanken-

baker at 433-0547 or attend one of these informational sessions:

Monday, Oct 11 at 7:00pm

Tuesday, Oct 12 at 7:00pm

Wednesday, Oct 13 at 12pm

These meetings will be held on the Austin East Campus in Room E106.

Information may also be found online at www.riverland.edu/londondash.



Focus on Alumni



If you have alumni news to share, please send it to the Performing Arts Newsletter in care of Scott Blankenbaker, Riverland Community College.

Nicholas Tranby is currently working in lights and sound at The Children's Theatre in Minneapolis.

Aaron Alan will be appearing in Chicago at Minnesota State University – Mankato this Fall.

Tricia Nichols is employed as an elementary music teacher in the Colorado Springs, CO area.

Congratulations to **Robert and Melissa "Melpy" (Pierskalla) Johnson** who were married on August 27, 2010.

And recent grads:

Nolan Kaiser and **Miguel Chacon** are pursuing music technology studies at McNally-Smith College of Music in St. Paul, MN.

Jesse Manuel is enrolled in the Music Business program at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

Jake Gustine is appearing in Judas Iscariot at the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse.

Ryan Heydon is a music major at Winona State University, Winona.

Calder Pfeifer is studying Political Science at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

Music Department to Present November Recitals

Riverland Music will feature two solo recitals in the Fall 2010 semester—both occurring in November.

The first will be a faculty recital given by instructor Scott Blankenbaker. This will be Mr. Blankenbaker's debut recital on the organ.

This program will feature an eclectic mixture of primarily sacred works by old masters and contemporary "stars" of the organ repertoire. The recital will be held at Christ Episcopal Church-Austin on Nov 14 @ 3pm. The second, a Casual Classics re-

recital, will feature mezzo-soprano Tricia Nichols. Tricia holds an A.A. from Riverland Community College and a B.A. in vocal performance from Minnesota State University-Mankato.

Tricia will be presenting a brief but varied program of Italian, English, and French songs and arias, including works by Barber, Respighi, Handel, and Gounod.

This recital will be held in the choral/band room of RCC-Austin on Nov. 24 from 12:10 to 1:00pm.

Riverland Theatre & Music Faculty Assignments

THEATRE

Jerry Girton—Director of Theatre; Advanced Acting; Intro to Theatre & Film; Speech for Performance; Directing

Susan Hansen—Beginning Acting; Intro to Theatre and Film

Brad Weber—Technical Director

Leslie Weber—Movement for the Stage

MUSIC

Scott Blankenbaker—sophomore Theory/SS/ET; College Choir; Vocal Ensemble; Voice

Cheryl Collins—Percussion

Mark Conway—Guitar

Tim Davis—Brass

Angela Donlon—Voice

Neil Erickson—Organ

David Hovland—Piano; freshman

Music Theory/SS/ET; Piano Classes; Survey of Music

Lynee Larson—Piano

Susan Radloff—Strings

Jesse Smith—Guitar

Scott Stroud—Woodwinds

Griffin Woodworth—Popular Music in America; Cello

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A Technical & Community College

*fostering artistry, intellect,
and creativity*

www.riverland.edu

FALL 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**RCC Theatre Box Office (507)433.0595
RCC Music Info (507)433.0600**

UP TIL 2

a'cappella vocal band
FWB Theatre – Riverland, Austin
September 25, 2010 @ 7:30pm
\$15 adult / \$12 student

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS

Riverland Theatre & Music Depts.
October 8-9 & 14-16, 2010 @ 7:30pm
October 10 @ 2:00pm
FWB Theatre – Riverland, Austin
\$15/RCC students-free

SCOTT BLANKENBAKER, organ

Faculty Recital
November 14, 2010 @ 3:00pm
Christ Episcopal Church
301 3rd Ave NW, Austin

TRICIA NICHOLS, mezzo-soprano

Casual Classics Concert Series
November 24, 2010 @ 12:10pm
Riverland, Austin
East Campus Room E102

**RIVERLAND ENSEMBLES
CONCERT**

College Choir & Frequency
December 3, 2010 @ 7:30pm
FWB Theatre – Riverland, Austin
*\$5 adult / \$3 18-under/
RCC students – free*

JOHN RUTTER'S "MAGNIFICAT"

College Choir with the Austin Sym-
phony Orchestra & Chorus
December 12, 2010 @ 2:00pm
Knowlton Auditorium
Austin High School
*tickets available at Hy-Vee, Coffee
House on Main, or at door*

DIRECTOR'S SHOWCASE

Riverland Theatre Dept.
featuring scenes from Directing class
December 13, 2010 @ 7:30pm
FWB Theatre -- Riverland, Austin

FINE ARTS SHOWCASE

Riverland Art, Music,
& Theatre students
December 15, 2010 @ 7:00pm
7:00pm art exhibit opens;
7:30pm performances begin
FWB Theatre – Riverland, Austin

*Events listed are free unless otherwise noted.
Find events online at www.riverland.edu.*

Think College. Think Riverland.

