



Performing Arts News

Volume VI, Issue I

formerly the "Music Notes" newsletter

Fall 2005

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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.

"Dolly" Opens RCC Season

Hello, Dolly! is the irresistible story of the joy of living, glittering with happy songs, shining with loving scenes and alive with the personality of one of the most fabulous characters on the musical stage...Dolly Gallagher Levi! It is the story of Dolly Levi's efforts to marry Horace Vandergelder, the well-known half-a-millionaire, and send his money circulating among the people like rainwater the way her late husband, Ephraim Levi, taught her. "Before the Parade Passes By," "It Only Takes a Moment," and one of the most famous songs in the history of American musical theatre, "Hello, Dolly!," make this an evening of entertainment you will long remember.

Riverland AFA candidate Carrie Braaten will be taking on the exciting task of creating the larger than life Dolly Gallagher Levi. Carrie first appeared in the ensemble of Footloose. Jared Lanes, also an AFA student, will be playing the grouchy but lovable Horace Vandergelder. A supporting cast of 32 students along with an orchestra led by Scott Blankenbaker are busy rehearsing for the big opening night.

Hello, Dolly! runs October 7-9 & 12-15 in the Frank Bridges Theatre.

Honor, pride and racism become the focus of the events in this play based on Harper Lee's award winning novel, To Kill a Mockingbird. Through the eyes of Scout, a pre-

cious young tomboy, we see the story unfold as her father, Atticus Finch, is asked to defend a young black man accused of raping a white woman. When Scout asks her father why he is taking on such a hopeless fight he tells her, "Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason not to try."

Auditions will be held on October 10 and 11 from 3-5 in the FWB Theatre. A large cast, including 3 young actors ages 9-14, will begin rehearsal October 17 for a November 16 opening. Auditions are open to the public and no experience is necessary. Performances will be at 7:30pm Nov. 16-19, and 2:00pm Nov. 20.

Italian Pianist Roberto Plano Returns To Riverland

October of 2002 was a memorable time for many area piano students, teachers, and observers as Italian pianist Roberto Plano presented a master class and performance at RCC. Roberto returns this fall in the midst of a busy touring schedule to again present a master

class and performance.

Mr. Plano has been a prize-winning performer in some of the world's most prestigious piano competitions. He is recognized for his expressive technique and interpretations of Romantic music.

Three to four area piano

students will be chosen to play in the Oct. 14 master class where Mr. Plano will listen and offer advice about their performances. Following this, the audience will be treated to a few songs by this outstanding pianist.

This event is free and the public is welcome to attend.

Don't miss it—Friday, October 14 @ 2pm in the F. W. Bridges Theatre.



New Adjunct Faculty Join the Riverland Ranks



Susan V. Hansen has joined the Theatre Department as an adjunct faculty member teaching the Beginning Acting class. After leaving Austin Community College, Susan received a BFA in Theatre from the University of Minnesota Duluth and attended graduate school at Penn State University. She has spent the last 20 years as a professional actor on stage, television, film and commercials. She has worked in many theatres in Minneapolis including The Illusion Theatre, Frank Theatre and The Old Log Theatre.

While in Los Angeles she appeared in several television shows including Party of Five and JAG. She has just started a new theatre company in Austin, the Star Light Star Bright Theatre Company, which will be performing at the Historic Paramount Theatre.

In order to accommodate the increased course offerings in music, a new adjunct music instructor was hired this Fall. Nancy Burger has taken over directorship of the College Choir and the Briars show choir. Nancy is originally from Tennessee, but has lived in Austin for 23 years and has taught music in area schools for most of that time. She received her B. A. in mu-

sic education from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas and this past summer completed a Master's in education from the University of St. Thomas. Nancy has appeared as a soloist with groups including the Northwestern Singers, Austin Symphony Orchestra, Summerset Theatre, and toured Germany with a small singing group on a USO tour. She is the mother of three children and resides in Austin with husband Paul Burger. RCC is delighted to welcome both Susan and Nancy to the performing arts staff on the Austin campus.



Performing Arts Highlights and Happenings

•Over the summer theatre and music alumni gathered to rehearse and present the eighth annual alumni show, The Secret Garden. With music by Lucy Simon, this show is based on the classic children's book. Nineteen alumni, five current students, Riverland faculty and staff, and a couple of future students(?) volunteered many hours to this production. Proceeds from the show are being used to fund

music and theatre scholarships for RCC students.

•Austin's Todd Park was the setting for a September 1st picnic for new and returning theatre and music students.

•Alice Northwick, former piano instructor for Riverland, passed away on Sept. 18 after a lengthy illness.

•On December 6 the Fine Arts

Showcase highlights talented students in the areas of art, theatre, and music. Student art work will be displayed in the Theatre lobby & hallways, while music and theater students will perform scenes, monologues, songs and arias.

•You can encounter London's vibrant culture on London Dash 16 led by experienced Riverland faculty. Learn more at the informational meetings October 10-12.

Students in the A.F.A. Degree Program at Riverland

AFA Theatre Students:

Carrie Braaten (2), Austin; **Susanne Bryan** (1), Austin; **Sierra Coy** (2), New Richland; **Jacqueline Franz** (2), Cottage Grove; **Erin Halvorson** (2), Owatonna; **Jared Lanes** (2), St. Peter; **Salem Mahmoud** (1), Hayfield; **Eric Morlan** (1), Austin; **Adam Perry** (2), Austin; **Nathaniel Parker** (2),

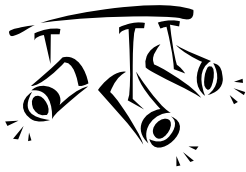
Hastings; **Daron Schwanz** (1), St. James; **Jonathan Schwartz** (1), Owatonna; **Lisa Trump** (1) – Fari-bault; **Benjamin Weiss** (1), Austin; **Nerissa Wilker** (2), Waseca; **Dan Yoder** (1), Owatonna

AFA Music Students:

Darcie Anthonisen (2), Austin; **John Bentley** (2), New Richland;

Joshua Boyer (1), Austin; **Rebekah Burns** (1), St. Ansgar, IA; **Jessica Deml** (1), Owatonna; **Jacqueline Franz** (2); Cottage Grove; **Christopher Jepson** (1), Glenville; **Robert Johnson** (2), Blooming Prairie; **Nathaniel Parker** (2), Hastings; **Kyle Snyder** (1), Austin; **Patricia Woodhouse** (1), Austin (1) = first-year student (2) = second-year student

Focus On Alumni: Where Are They Now?



This segment of Performing Arts News lets you know the whereabouts and accomplishments of some of our former students. All of the people in this section were involved in theatre and/or music during their careers at Riverland. Please send any information concerning past students to sblanken@riverland.edu.

Jennifer (Knoebel) Germain ('00) received her BA in Theatre and Communication Studies at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and is currently a grad student at the University of Minnesota. Jennie was the first student re-

cruited for their new Master of Liberal Studies in Arts Administration program. While taking classes, she will be working as the Audience Development Manager for the University Theatre. Husband **Donovan Germain** recently returned to Riverland to appear as Archie Craven in the alumni show, The Secret Garden. He received his BS in Music Education/Vocal from Winona State University and is currently a Resource Teacher at John Glenn Middle School in Maplewood.

Sandy May ('00) now resides in New York City and recently talked to the Intermediate Acting class while here visiting family and friends. After graduating from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Sandy has been audition-

ing in New York. She is currently a member of a singing group, *The Glamazons*.

Luis Valle ('04) is a senior at Gustavus Adolphus College as a pre-med major.

Rachel Aase ('05) is pursuing a double major in vocal performance and communications at UW-Lacrosse.

Travis Kasper ('05) is a pre-pharmacy major at UW-LaCrosse.

Megan Pence ('05) is a communications major at UW-LaCrosse.

Matt Moritz has recently returned from serving in Afghanistan and is enrolled in the Carpentry Program at Riverland.

New Courses Offered This Semester at Riverland

The newly implemented A.F.A. degree means expanded course offerings in the fine arts areas. Three new courses are being offered for the first time in Fall 2005 at RCC.

THTR2300:Intermediate Acting focuses on creating a character vocally, physically and emotionally through script analysis. Emphasis on Stanislavski's vocabulary while rehearsing and performing monologues and scenes encourage the

exploration of character development.

THTR2500:Directing is designed for the novice director and examines several techniques and theories of stage direction. Students focus on selecting, casting and rehearsing a script as well as the fundamentals of blocking, stage picture and composition.

MUSC2103: Theory/SS/ET III is a continuation of the music theory sequence. This course is for sophomore students and is part of the core requirements for most four-year music degrees. It includes the study of non-diatonic harmonies, particularly those found in music of the Romantic period, as well as continued development of sight-singing and ear training skills.

Riverland Theatre & Music Faculty - Fall 2005

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

James Douglass—Intro to Theatre and Film; Stage Make-up

Susan V. Hansen—Begin. Acting

Brad Weber—Technical Director

Leslie Weber—Stage Movement

Scott Blankenbaker—Director of Music Dept.; Theory courses; Private Voice; musical theatre direction

Nancy Burger—Director of Choirs

Mark Conway—Guitar

Holly Dalager—Woodwinds

Tim Davis—Brass

Mavis Fritsch—Percussion

Brian Koser—Popular Music in America

Lynnee Larson—Piano Class I; Private Piano

Sonia Larson—Voice & Piano; Survey of Music

Rory Matson—Guitar Class I

Susan Radloff—Strings

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

“Hello, Dolly!” a musical

Riverland Theatre & Music

Oct. 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 7:30pm

Oct. 9 matinee 2:00pm

Box office: (507) 433-0595

London Dash 16

Informational Meetings

Oct. 10 7pm Skylight Room

Albert Lea campus

Oct. 11 8pm Austin East E106

Oct. 12 12pm Austin East C100

phone 437-7390 for more info.



clip & save

Casual Classics Concerts— Roberto Plano

Riverland Music Dept.

Fri. Oct. 14, 2005 2:00pm

F.W. Bridges Theatre; free

“To Kill a Mockingbird”

Riverland Theatre Dept.

Nov. 16, 17, 18, 19 7:30pm

Nov. 20 matinee 2:00pm

Box office: (507) 433-0595

Casual Classics Concerts— Larson & Blankenbaker, voice

Wednesday, Nov. 30 12:10pm

Austin East Room E102

Riverland Choirs Concert

Friday, Dec. 9 7:30pm

F.W. Bridges Theatre

Riverland Fine Arts Showcase

Art, Music, & Theatre students

Tues. Dec. 6 7:00pm art exhibit

7:30pm performances begin

F.W. Bridges Theatre & Lobby