



Performing Arts News

Volume VI, Issue 2

formerly the "Music Notes" newsletter

Spring 2006

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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.

New Courses Debut at RCC

As the Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) Degree program continues to grow in theatre and music, new classes are being continually added.

Advanced Acting & Auditions Methods is for 2nd year AFA Theatre students. In addition to more work on scenes and monologues, students concentrate on a variety of audition techniques. More theories of acting are discussed along with a little more Stanislavsky. After taking this class, students will have a variety of performance styles and pieces at their disposal.

Students in the new Musical Theatre class study a brief history of musical theatre in America as well as musical theatre performance. Students in-

clude music majors, theatre majors and those just interested in musical theatre.

Second-year music majors are enrolled in the final semester of the Theory/Sight Singing/Ear Training sequence. In Theory/SS/ET IV, students learn advanced modulation techniques, study larger forms, jazz theory, atonal techniques, and other contemporary techniques. These students continue to work on sight-singing, ear training, and compose their own music as well.

The final class required of all AFA students before they graduate is a Portfolio class. In this 1 credit class students put together an electronic portfolio on DVD which will

contain not only their resume and photographs, but some of their best work from their time in the AFA program. In addition, students make a 30 second commercial about themselves. This electronic portfolio will then be available for the student for future auditions or applications for transfer or scholarships.

There are currently 17 students actively pursuing the new AFA in Theatre and 10 pursuing the AFA in Music. The first AFA students will graduate this May.

More information about Riverland Theatre & Music can be found online at www.riverland.edu

Sandip Burman To Give Clinic At Riverland in February

Ask anyone involved in music education who one of the best-known proponents of Indian music is and they will probably answer "Sandip Burman." Sandip has performed all over the world and is currently touring the United States and will be presenting a clinic at RCC-Austin

on February 8.

Sandip is a tabla (Indian drums) player who performs both traditional Indian and jazz fusion music. Sandip has performed



with such notables as Bela Fleck and Ravi Shankar. His drumming can be heard on the movie soundtrack, "Mars Attacks" as well as on CD and at his website www.goplaytabla.com.

This clinic will be held on Wednesday, February 8 from 11:00am to 12:30pm in room E102. This lecture-performance by "Sandip Burman & Friends" is sponsored by the Riverland Music Department. It is open to RCC students, staff, and interested persons.

Introducing The First AFA Theatre Graduates

May 12 will mark the date of the first graduates in the AFA programs. These students will be some of the first to receive the AFA degree not only at Riverland but also Minnesota.

Sierra Coy Originally from New Richland, Sierra has been very active in the theatre department. Her list of Riverland credits include Carousel, A Christmas Carol, Babes in Arms, Metamorphoses, Phantom and Hello, Dolly! She will be rollerblading across the stage as the fairy Peaseblossom in the upcoming production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Sierra also works in the theatre scene shop in the work-study program.

Carrie Braaten Carrie is from Austin and in the last few years she

has appeared in Carousel, Babes in Arms, Inspecting Carol, In the Beginning, A Christmas Carol and several other productions. Last fall she appeared as Dolly Levi in Hello, Dolly! and is currently rehearsing her role of Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Carrie was also very active in the music department and worked as a Student Ambassador and in the theatre box office.

Erin Halvorson An Owatonna native, Erin just finished appearing as Atticus Finch in Riverland's production of Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird. In the last two years Erin has also appeared in Babes in Arms, Inspecting Carol, Metamorphoses, Phantom and Hello, Dolly! He is preparing to appear as Demetrius in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Erin was also a Student

Ambassador and very involved in the music department. Next year Erin plans to attend Minnesota State University at Mankato.

Adam Perry Dancing across the stage in Footloose provided Adam with his first RCC theatre experience. Adam, from Austin, is another student who has been active in both music and theatre. Adam's other Riverland theatre credits include Carousel, A Christmas Carol, In the Beginning, Babes in Arms, Inspecting Carol, Metamorphoses, Phantom, and To Kill a Mockingbird. Many Summerset patrons will recognize Adam from his role as the Scarecrow in Summerset's production of The Wizard of Oz. Adam will get a chance to use his magical talents in the upcoming A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Performing Arts Highlights and Happenings



February 14 marks the 5th Annual **Theatre Day**. 125 high school students from around the area will attend workshops on acting and movement that will be presented by actors from the Guthrie Theatre. After a morning of workshops, they will be joined by more students and watch the RCC production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Of course, Feb. 14 is also Valentine's

Day and that means **Singing Valentine Telegrams** will once again be available from the Riverland choirs. For a small fee, singers will deliver a special treat to your special someone. Proceeds are used for choir expenses—wardrobe, travel, music, etc.

The **College Choir** teams up with the Austin Symphony Orchestra & Chorus on Feb. 19 to present Mendelssohn's landmark oratorio,

"Elijah." On March 30-31 the choir will travel to Brainerd to participate in the annual MN Community College Fine Arts Festival.

Daniel & Victoria Sabo will perform late Romantic piano duets for RCC students on April 21 at 11:00am. Both are accomplished teachers, performers, and composers from Bellingham, WA. Daniel presented a lecture-recital last year at Riverland.

Meet The First AFA Grads in Music

John Bentley John will graduate in May with an AFA in Music and a high school diploma. John is a PSEO student from New Richland who has been a member of the College Choir, appeared in several stage productions, and performs in Renaissance fairs & reenactments. John hopes eventually to follow in his grandmother's footsteps and pursue a career in opera.

Darcie Anthonisen Darcie actually graduated last year with an AA from Riverland, and has spent this year taking a few more classes in order to earn an AFA in Music. Darcie has been in the Briars and College Choir and has studied voice and piano. She and John will be giving a short recital on April 12 as part of the degree requirement.

It's Showtime

The 7th Annual Riverland Variety Show is scheduled for Sunday, March 5 at 2:00pm. Students & faculty present this event to display their talents, to raise money for music scholarships, and just to have a little fun on a Sunday afternoon. Previous years have featured singers, jugglers, dancers, poets, bands, and some things that perhaps defy description. Check it out!

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.

Nik Tranby, Austin, spent many

nights in the light booth at RCC running lights and sound. He recently graduated from the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with a BFA degree in Theatre Production and Design with a major in Sound. Currently he is working for the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park where he manages sound design and production for their experimental theatre. This fall he hopes and plans to enter the Master's program in Architectural Acoustics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Sandra May, St. Ansgar, was recently featured in *Figure* magazine with a performing group called The Glamazons. They recently performed on the WB's morning show and at the Rainbow Room in NYC.

Kim (Davis) Zerke, Lyle, is completing a B.S. in music education from MSU-Mankato. She presented her senior voice recital in Fall '05 and is currently doing her student teaching in the Austin public schools. Kim will be presenting a short recital at Riverland on April 17 on the Casual Classics series.

Riverland Theatre—Not Your Ordinary Season

A fantastical comedy...

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

Lysander loves Hermia, and Hermia loves Lysander. But add another suitor, the King and Queen of Fairies, and a group of craftsmen rehearsing a play and complications arise in what many call Shakespeare's most delightful comedy. Magic and mistaken identity combine with the vast array of characters to make this a most entertaining evening of theatre including

rollerblades, mirrors and lots and lots of hairspray!

A thought-provoking musical...

Assassins

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman

Based on an original idea by Charles Gilbert, Jr.

This most American of musicals lays bare the lives of nine individuals who assassinated or tried to assassinate the President of the United States. From John Wilkes

Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman bend the rules of time and space, taking us on a nightmarish rollercoaster ride in which assassins and would be assassins from different historical periods meet, interact and in an intense final scene inspire each other to harrowing acts in the name of the American Dream.

Produced courtesy of Music Theatre International

Assassins is recommended for ages 14 and up.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is recommended for ages 12 and up

Theatre & Music Faculty - Spring Semester 2006

Jerry Girton—Director of Theatre; Musical Theatre; Acting; Intro to Theatre & Film

James Douglass—Beginning Acting

Susan V. Hansen—Beginning Acting

Brad Weber—Technical Director; Stagecraft and Technology

Leslie Weber—Stage Movement; Choreographer for the Briars

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

Nancy Burger—Director of Choirs

Mark Conway—Guitar

Holly Dalager—Woodwinds

Tim Davis—Brass

Mavis Fritsch—Percussion

Brian Koser—Popular Music in America

Lynne Larson—Piano Class I; Piano Class II; Private Piano

Sonia Larson—Voice & Piano; Survey of Music

Susan Radloff—Strings

Bill Dowden—AFA Portfolio class

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

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and creativity*

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SANDIP BURMAN & FRIENDS

music & instruments of India
Wed., Feb. 8 11:00am E102

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Riverland Theatre Dept.
Feb. 10-12; 16-18
12th @ 2pm; all others 7:30pm

SINGING VALENTINES

Tues. Feb. 14 8am-5pm
call 433-0389 for info.

MENDELSSOHN'S "ELIJAH"

College Choir & Austin Symphony
Sun., Feb. 19 2:00pm
Austin High School Auditorium



7TH ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW

scholarship fundraiser
Sun., March 5 2:00pm

SUB-SECTION MUSIC CONTEST

Minnesota High School League
Mon., March 13 all day

STUDENT RECITAL

John Bentley & Darcie Anthonisen
Wed., Apr. 12 12:15pm E102

CASUAL CLASSICS CONCERTS

Kimberly Zerke, mezzo-soprano
Mon., Apr. 17 12:15pm E102

ASSASSINS

Riverland Theatre & Music Depts.
Apr. 20-23; 28-29
23rd @ 2pm; all others 7:30pm

LECTURE-RECITAL

Daniel & Victoria Sabo, duet piano
Fri., Apr. 21 11:00am E102

RIVERLAND FINE ARTS SHOWCASE

Art, Music, & Theatre students
Tues. May 2 7:00pm art exhibit
7:30pm performances begin

SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

College Choir & Briars choir
Thurs., May 4 7:30pm

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All events take place in the Frank W. Bridges Theatre, Austin campus unless otherwise specified. Some events may have a small admission charge. Questions? Call us at (507) 433-0600 or (800) 247-5039 or visit www.riverland.edu/theatre/index.cfm