

# NEWS

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## Director's Comments

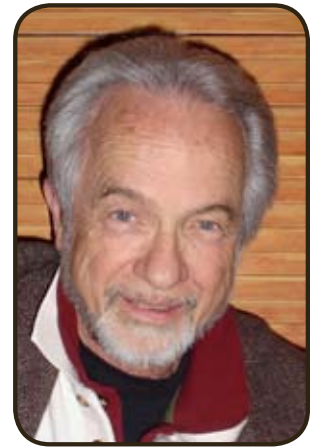
### Giving us something to stand on

What is that phrase? Management by walking around? Think that refers to the manager who spends a lot of time observing those with whom he works so that he gets a more comprehensive view of how everyone is working and whether the goals of the organization are being met. I spend a lot of time walking around to classrooms, and, yes, some of that is to watch the teachers. It's part of my job. The excellence they display as they deliver the day's lesson is a marvel; but most of the time it is to watch the students, to see how they are responding to the daily challenge of being in classrooms that stretch their notion of themselves and their capabilities. Education, at bottom, is really about more than whether they pass the test. Isn't it about what kinds of people they will become? Can they think imaginatively, creatively? Can they come up against an obstacle and find a way to overcome it? Can they work with a group of people, different in every aspect from themselves, and find a way to build the kind of consensus that secures a future for the group, or the company, or the nation? Can they maximize their talents, their abilities, so that more of them is committed to a problem than what is superficial and cosmetic? Can they find deep within themselves the honesty to say that something is wrong to a group of people willing to compromise their standards in the interest of time? Oh, so many things, so many pitfalls, so many turns and twists that one wonders how they will grow up, how they will get beyond these formative years.

They do. Strangely, the values instilled in them here, the habits, the discipline, all come into play later. They know how to work, how to get the most from themselves, and they know the answer lies within, not in the back of some book or some crib sheet. They know the answer will come from their ability to analyze the problem, to lay it out, dissect it, to study its

pieces and, then, to look for ways to reassemble that information into something new, something that fits this situation, this problem. Artists do that, have been doing that for centuries. We are used to finding a new way, the new path, and, while it may take some time to get others to follow, eventually we get many to join us, to sing with us, and we find a Bach, a Mozart, a Beethoven, a Vermeer, a Van Gogh, a Picasso, a Bergman, or a Kurosawa, who changes the way we understand what it is to be human. We learn more about ourselves and ourselves in a changing world. The artists give us something to stand on.

So, we who educate must start teaching artists to stand now. What good is an education if you can't think for yourself? Even more basic: if you don't know *how* to think? What good is it if you don't know how to look at the problem, break it into its parts, determine what it is made of and how to use it in new ways? It's what we do here. Students are asked to dig inside themselves for their answers to a problem presented to the class. It is the individual response to that problem that draws me, again and again, to that happy crucible: the Fine Arts Center classroom. That place where a synaptic alchemy takes place, where *Eureka!* is visible in the students' eyes and in the confident manner with which they proceed. That's when you know that what you are doing is very, very special; and you want to hold on to it, to let it fill you everyday with the joy of watching them grow, knowing that soon they will be teaching you.



Ray

## Voice

On November 1, Fine Arts Center voice students participated in a master class given by esteemed artist/teacher

**Joy Davidson**. The mezzo-soprano, now retired, enjoyed a long opera and concert career which included appearances at the Metropolitan Opera and La Scala in Milan, Italy. Among many



Voice student Angel Grassano works with Joy Davidson

other characters, she sang over 400 performances of the title role in Bizet's *Carmen*. She was also a featured soloist in world premieres of works by Menotti and Penderecki. As a teacher and clinician, she specializes in performance and audition anxiety as well as the usual technical and musical issues. Before her retirement, she was most recently affiliated with the New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida.



Joy Davidson listens to baritone Barryle Young; FAC voice teacher Michael Rice accompanies at the piano.

**Joseph Stanek**, a senior vocal performance major at Furman University, has just finished a five-week field study at the Fine Arts Center as part of his Human Development requirement. He observed FAC voice teacher Michael Rice, led warm-up exercises and assisted students in practice rooms. Stanek, a baritone, was a soloist in Handel's *Messiah* at Furman on November 30 and will star as the Wolf in Seymour Barab's *Little Red Riding Hood* at Converse College in January.

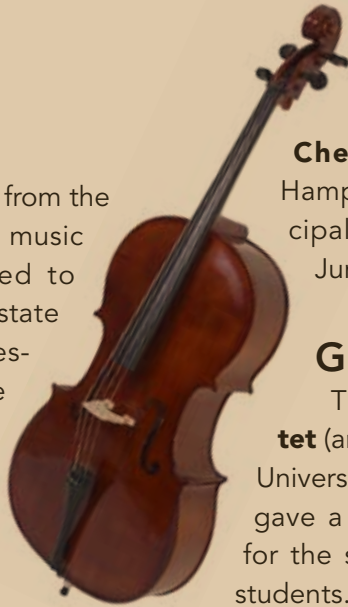


Joseph Stanek, right, works with voice students Kelsey Rigg, Samantha Schrader and Catherine Mixon.

## Strings

### Student News

Twenty-six students from the FAC strings chamber music classes were selected to participate in the Upstate West Regional Orchestra festival. This is the greatest number of participants from any school in the upstate. Violinist Sarah Rogers (Wade Hampton), violist **Anna Catherine Bowden** (Easley), cellist **Seth Russell** (Home Schooled), and double bassist **Clayton Watkins** (Pickens) won principal chairs in the Senior Orchestra. Each had significant solo passages in *Sonata da Chiesa* by Adolphus Hailstork.



**Chelsea Abdalla** (Wade Hampton) earned the principal viola position in the Junior Orchestra.

### Guest Artists

The **Ceruti String Quartet** (artists in residence at the University of Memphis) recently gave a chamber master class for the strings chamber music students. The quartet also performed a public concert in the FAC Recital Hall. The concert featured works of Debussy, Shostakovich and Brahms. The Ceruti Quartet will perform the same program later this year in concerts in New York and on tour in South Korea.

## Writing

**Jonathan Rice** (1997 Creative Writing): his poem "Folie à Deux" won the 2007 Yellowwood Poetry Prize from *Yalobusha Review*. "Shadowtown" and "After Perseids" were chosen as runners-up for the 2007 Wabash Poetry prize from *Sycamore Review*. He's also had poems taken this semester by *New Delta Review*, *Pebble Lake Review*, and *Notre Dame Review*.

Creative Writing teacher **Claire Bateman** gave a reading at Leopard Forest Cafe in October. Students **Max Lasser**, **Breanne Smith**, **Wynne Hungerford**, and **Caroline Roper** read at the open mic session afterward. Claire Bateman has poems forthcoming in *Gulf Coast Review*, *Grist*, and *New Ohio Review*.

## Dance

### Guest Artists

**Lisa Wheeler** was guest dance artist for a week, setting two pieces of choreography on both the morning and afternoon Fine Arts Center dancers. She lives in New York City, where she is the associate artistic director of Ben Munisteri Dance Projects. She danced with the acclaimed Dan Wag- oner and Dancers and still helps him restage some of his dance works. Dan Wagoner danced with Martha Graham and Paul Taylor during the golden years and is now on the faculty at Florida State University, where Lisa has been a guest artist assisting him in restag- ing his works. She was born in South Carolina and graduated from Columbia College, so she is an inspiration to the dancers. She continues to set her own choreography as well as works by Dan Wagoner on the Power Company, the professional modern dance company in Columbia, SC. The Fine Arts Center dancers invited parents and guests for an open rehearsal on Lisa Wheeler's last day.



**Vincas Greene**, Chair of Performing Arts and Director of Dance at Brenau University, taught a master class to the afternoon dancers on Monday, Novem- ber 12. He received his M.F.A. from Cali- fornia Institute of the Arts and danced

with Carl Ratcliff Dance Theatre and on scholarship in the studio of the icon of dance, Merce Cunningham.

**Lynn Victory, R.D.**, Registered Di- etician, presented useful information to Fine Arts Center dance, theatre and voice students in October. She included not only information on the what and why of healthy eating, but tidbits on how to incorporate good eating habits into their busy lives. Students were eager to ask further questions follow- ing her presentation. Lynn Victory is a graduate of the University of Vermont with a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. She completed her Dietetic Internship in Augusta, Georgia, at MCG and Uni- versity Hospital.

**Joni Durham** (Dance 1985) was a guest in the afternoon dance class on November 7. She explained the im- portant muscles that dancers use and gave helpful pointers on stretching, preventing injuries and taking care of their bodies.

**Brian McGinnis** will be in residence at the Fine Arts Center from January 3-11. He is a B.F.A. graduate of Juilliard and danced with David Parsons. He has been a guest at the Fine Arts Center, SCAHPERD and the School District Dance Festival in the past.

### Alumni

**Jennifer Becker** (Dance 2006) was selected to represent Columbia College in Kaleidoscope, the dance perfor- mance at the annual SCAHPERD con- vention in November. She performed a duet choreographed by Dan Wagoner and staged by Lisa Wheeler with pro- fessional dancer and dance educator Kara Conder. Jennifer also performed a duet she choreographed to perform with another dancer.

**Jennifer Becker** (Dance 2006) and **Laura Ashlee Daniels** (Dance 2005) were two of the five dancers selected to perform in the work of guest artist Danah Bella (dance faculty at Radford University) for the Columbia College Dance Company.

### Faculty

**Jan Woodward**, dance faculty, at- tended the annual SCAHPERD conven- tion, where she taught a ballet class and co-presented a class on how to use the choreographic work of Dan Wagoner in the studio. She represents the Upstate on the board of SCDA (South Carolina Dance Association) and this year is chair of Honors and Awards. Last year, Dr. Roy Fluhrer received the SCDA Dance Advocacy Award.

### Other

**The Power Company**, the



professional modern dance company in Columbia, will be in residence during the School District Mini-Festival on Feb- ruary 9 at the Fine Arts Center. Dancers from the district dance programs will be able to take a master class with a member of the company. Dancers will also rehearse on the Wade Hampton High School stage for the performance on Sunday, February 10.

### Support the Arts — Buy Some Tarts

The Fine Arts Center dancers are helping raise money for cos- tumes and the National Honor Society for Dance Arts by having a bake sale every Friday.

## Greenville County Youth Orchestra

### Fine Arts Center Winds, Brass and Percussion Students Regain State Honor Band Privileges

After a hiatus of over a decade, the South Carolina Band Directors Association ruled that winds, brass and percussion students from the Fine Arts Center are now allowed to participate in Region and All-State band festivals.



Wesley Strasser, WHHS, 09

The surprise ruling came in November from the desk of current SCBDA President Martin Dickey, Director of Bands at Nation Ford High School, who argued that, as an entity of the public schools, the Fine Arts Center should be allowed the same access to state band events as is currently given to most other public, private, home, and specialty schools in South Carolina. Based upon a previous reading of SCBDA bylaws emphasizing that it was not a diploma-granting institution, the Fine Arts Center has been one of a very few schools in South Carolina whose students were barred from membership in Region and All-State Band festivals. Following a successful audition, participation in Region Band and All-State Band is highly educational and is a mark of prestige among aspiring high school musicians. Fine Arts Center students will benefit from this privilege. Furthermore, what was once a stumbling block for students who were considering attending the Fine Arts Center—the denial of access to an important educational outlet and résumé line—has effectively been removed for

future FAC band musicians. The writer invites students and parents to contact Mr. Dicky in appreciation for his positive and inclusive action.

### Residencies in Winds Chamber Music and Percussion

On October 23, FAC students and faculty were treated to an in-house concert by renowned flutist **Nicolas Duchamp** and Furman University voice faculty member **Tamara Matthews**. Principal Flutist of the "National Opera Comique" in Paris since 2004, Duchamp's orchestral experience has



Nicolas Duchamp

permitted him to have a rich musical life under the direction of many great maestros, and he has appeared in international music competitions in Austria, Germany and France. In 2003, he was awarded "a cultural distinction of progress" in the French Senate. Duchamp has recorded two CDs with pianist Olga Vassileva.

An active performer who joined the Furman music faculty in 2003, Tamara Matthews made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1994 as first-prize winner of the Musica Sacra Bach Vocal Competition, and has achieved international status with recent performances in Italy, France, Spain, Israel, China, Singapore and Mexico. She has debuted in Royal Albert Hall (Proms), at the Edinburgh Festival, with the Philadelphia and Cleveland orchestras, and



Tamara Matthews



Pictured with Duchamp are (L-R) Lindsey Quackenbush (WHHS, 12), Hunter Goldsmith (Riverside, 10), Fiona Aldrich (Blue Ridge, 12), Blake Dutcher (Spouthside Christian, 12), David Katilius (FAC Student Intern), Faith Russell (home school, 09) and Sarah Hoggatt (Riverside, 12).

at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony.

Following the concert, Duchamp coached Winds & Brass Chamber Music students on repertoire they were preparing for their upcoming recital.



Courtney McDonald

On November 28-30, concert percussionist **Courtney McDonald** coached Percussion I and II classes on snare drum techniques, the Advanced Percussion Class on marimba techniques and repertoire, and college-bound FAC percussionists with audition materials. Courtney McDonald graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in percussion performance from Boston University. She serves on the faculty of Reinhardt College in Waleska, Georgia. She is the Principal Percussionist with the Greenville (SC) Symphony Orchestra and the Columbus (GA) Orchestra and performs regularly with the Alabama Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Atlanta Opera and the Atlanta Ballet. Courtney is a founding member of Chix with Stix, an all-female ensemble dedicated to innovative chamber music.

On December 10-12, jazz drummer **Thomas Taylor** coached FAC percussion students on jazz drum set coordination and style, and served as a clinician with



Thomas Taylor

FAC's jazz guitar classes. Thomas has been a guest at the Fine Arts Center each year since 2005, and in each visit, leaves an enormous footprint. One of FAC's most exciting guest artists, Thomas is on the faculties of UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Central, and the famed Jamie Abersold Summer Jazz Workshop. He has performed across the United States and Japan and is one of the most in-demand jazz drummers in the southeast.

### Fine Arts Center Winds and Brass Students Win State Awards

On Thursday, November 1, flutist **Faith Russell** (home school, 09) and bassoonist **Christian Askew** (Mauldin, 11) participated in the Music Teacher National Association State Competition. Russell won first place in Junior Woodwinds and Askew earned an Honorable Mention in Senior High Woodwinds. Both are private students of Mary AllyeB Purtle.



Faith Russell



Chris Askew

### GCYO's 2007-2008 Season: It Happened Suddenly, But Only After a Long Time

Greenville County Youth Orchestra opened its 2007-2008 season with its October 18 Young Artist Concert No.1 at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater. The concert was conducted by its Music Director, Dr. Gary August Robinson.

There was no special name for this concert. If it had had a theme, however, it would have been something like "Never Underestimate a Teenager with a Talent, an Instrument and a Dream." On the surface of it, GCYO's concerts, featuring 56 of the most



Seth Russell

talented student musicians in the Upstate, are remarkable for what the kids have set out to accomplish. Unlike most youth concerts, which sample single-movement orchestral pieces and selected movements from larger works, GCYO students performed complete symphonies and concerti showcasing soloists from their own ranks. Their concert featured Brahms *Academic Festival Overture*, Camille Saint-Saëns' *Cello Concerto No. 1 Opus 33* (featuring GCYO Principal Cellist Seth Russell as soloist) and Haydn's *Symphony No. 104* ("London").

GCYO's 2007-2008 season is a summit—an arrival point—on a journey that began in 2000 with the 33rd and final performance of the Singing

Christmas Tree, a production with which GCYO had been closely associated for over three decades. The loss of this concert presented the GCYO staff and parent association with an opportunity to develop the artistic character of the orchestra and to achieve a new goal: to create a youth orchestra that meets national standards in the education it offers its members, as well as one that can stand on its own as a contributor to Greenville's rich artistic culture. They have made many steps towards achieving this goal in the intervening years. The following are just a few:

### Top-Down Development of the School District's Orchestra Program

GCYO is the "last stop" in the School District's after-school orchestra program. Its foundation is three other orchestras — Junior Sinfonia, Sinfonia, and The Philharmonic — that build orchestral skills in students starting in grade six and continuing through senior year in high school. Greenville County Schools' Fine Arts Department (the current Coordinator is Diane Lee) and strings teachers have worked closely with GCYO in developing, refining and improving this entire system, thus providing more rigorous (and exciting) training for participating students, and creating a system that prepares them for eventual entry into Greenville County Youth Orchestra.

Of GCYO's three "step-up orchestras," The Philharmonic has undergone changes that are most dramatic and have had the greatest impact on Greenville County Youth Orchestra. Originally called "String Ensemble," this penultimate step in the School District's orchestra program was for many years a strings-only organization that would add winds and brass players for an end-

of-the-year concert. Since 2000, this group has become a full orchestra, has acquired a new name and has committed itself to making challenging musical



Kathleen Robinson

and organizational improvements each year. Under the direction of Kathleen Robinson, The Philharmonic now rehearses and performs repertoire that was once the domain of Greenville County

Youth Orchestra, thus providing its members with more exacting training and a shorter step up into GCYO.

**Raised Audition Standards and Profile**

Youth orchestras always have to find a balance of having a full instrumentation (“Do we have enough viola players? Will we have pairs of oboes and bassoons in the orchestra this year?”) with grouping mem-



GCYO Horn Players

bers by their ability to play on a similar (high) level. GCYO has gradually raised and refined requirements for each wave of new members. Routinely counted as members of All-State bands and orchestras, winners of local, state and national music competitions, GCYO members now rank among the most accomplished young musicians in the state. Many attend the Fine Arts Center’s strings and winds chamber music programs, among the only daily programs of their kind in the nation.

Along with dramatically increasing enrollments for its daytime classes, the new Fine Arts Center has increased the visibility of its Orchestra-in-Residence, and, along with it, interest in Greenville County Youth Orchestra.

**Change in Emphasis from Small Symphony Orchestra to Large Chamber Orchestra**

For about 20 years, GCYO existed as two orchestras: a larger symphony orchestra whose students encompassed a relatively wide ability range and a smaller chamber orchestra designed for the most skilled players. The “big” GCYO would rehearse for two and a half hours and chamber for about 45 minutes. With improved audition standards and an excellent training culture established in The Philharmonic, GCYO’s membership could now focus on “the most skilled players” exclusively. Starting this season, the full and chamber orchestra rehearsal times were combined into one three-hour session, which allows the students and conductor time to play complete works and to examine their inner workings in minute detail. As additional incentive for ongoing achievement, GCYO members receive full honors level credit through the Fine Arts Center for their successful participation.

**Technological Development**

GCYO is the Orchestra-in-Residence at Greenville’s Fine Arts Center, which moved into its new facility on a campus with Wade Hampton High School in January of this year. An acoustically sensitive, dual-purpose recital/rehearsal room was designed with GCYO in mind. Equipped with mics and connected to a state-of-the-art recording studio, this room allows GCYO the opportunity to record each rehearsal, to make copies available for the staff to review, and, most importantly, to upload sound files to the orchestra website. Orchestra members study these recordings each week in preparation for their next rehearsal.

**The GCYO Association and Executive Director Position**

GCYO’s 2007-2008 season is the very first in which both artistic and operational goals will be facilitated by an overall di-



Holly Caprell

rector. Formerly the President of GCYO’s Parent Association, **Holly Caprell** became the orchestra’s public face and most ardent nurturer as GCYO’s Executive Director. Holly’s broad range of duties, including coordinating the efforts of GCYO’s staff and Parent Association, generating funds, and making new pathways to the future. GCYO’s Executive Director position is funded by a generous grant from the Graham Foundation.

Along the way, GCYO has knit together these and other important developments with ever more rigorous musical expectations and professional standards. Now more than ever in its history, Greenville County Youth Orchestra embodies its long-stated mission:

“GCYO’s primary goal is to provide the highest level of musical experience for its members. For the aspiring professional musician, it provides the hands-on training essential to begin a musical career. And for the avocational player, it provides an enrichment which can only be found in the rehearsal and performance of fine musical literature in a well-trained ensemble.”

## GCYO's Middle School Orchestra Festival

Greenville County Youth Orchestra staged its nineteenth annual Middle School Orchestra Festival on the Fine Arts Center/Wade Hampton High School campus on Friday and Saturday, November 2 and 3. The event assembles students for what is usually their first experience in a symphony orchestra. This year it brought together 90 middle school musicians: string players who had been recommended and prepared by their School District classroom teachers, and band students who were selected as members of the 2007 All-County Band Festival. They were joined by 20 members of Greenville County

Youth Orchestra who served as section coaches and mentors, and GCYO's step-up ensemble, The Philharmonic, which served as Host Orchestra. GCYO Music Director **Gary Robinson**, Philharmonic Music Director **Kathleen Robinson**, and Mauldin Middle School Band Director **James Kilgus** served as festival clinicians. Kilgus, who is on the conducting staff of the Carolina Youth Symphony, also organized band students

who participated in the festival.

The GCYO Association (**Susan Askew**, President) provided underwriting, organization, and volunteers to stage the Middle School Orchestra Festival. The event concluded with a concert that featured The Philharmonic, conducted by Kathleen Robinson and showcasing GCYO violinist **Sarah Rogers** as soloist, and the Middle School Festival Orchestra.



Jim Kilgus



Sara Rogers



**Fine Arts Center**

**Concert/Performance Dates 2007-2008**

*December 13 at 8 pm*  
**Strings Chamber Music**

*December 14, AM Only*  
**8th Grade Visitation Day**

*December 14 at 7 pm*  
**Theatre Performance**

*January 16 at 7:30 pm*  
**Brass, Winds, Percussion  
 Recital**

*January 24 at 8 pm*  
**GYCO Shoulder to Shoulder,  
 Gunter Theatre**

*January 31 at 7:30 pm*  
**Winter Orchestra Concert,  
 WHHS**

*February 9*  
**Mini Dance Festival**

*February 10 at 3 pm*  
**District Dance Showcase,  
 WHHS**

*March 6 at 8 pm*  
**Strings Chamber Music**

*March 7 & 8 at 7 pm*  
**Theatre Performance**

*March 13 at 7:30 pm*  
**Jazz Recital**

*March 14 & 15 at 7 pm*  
**Theatre Performance**

*March 16 at 2 & 5 pm*  
**ARMES Strings Concert**

*March 20 at 7:30 pm*  
**Brass, Winds, Percussion  
 Informance**

*April 17 at 8 pm*  
**GCYO Concert,  
 Gunter Theatre**

*April 20 at 2 pm*  
**ARMES Strings Concert**

*April 22 at 7:30 pm*  
**Spring Orchestra Concert,  
 WHHS**

*May 1 at 7:30 pm*  
**Jazz Recital**

*May 5 at 7 pm*  
**Creative Writing**

*May 7 at 7:30 pm*  
**Brass, Winds, Percussion  
 Recital**

*May 9 & 10 at 7:30 pm*  
**Dance Recital**

*May 11 at 3 pm*  
**ARMES Strings Concert,  
 WHHS**


*May 13 at 6:30 pm*  
**Voice Recital**

*May 14 at 7:30 pm*  
**Jazz Recital**

*May 15 at 8 pm*  
**Strings Chamber Music**

*May 16 at 9:20 and 1:20*  
**Honors Showcase**

*May 30 at 7:30*  
**Film Video Screening**



**GREENVILLE COUNTY  
 SCHOOLS**  
*Where enlightening strikes.*

The School District of Greenville County  
 Dr. Phinnize Fisher, Superintendent

Fine Arts Center  
 Dr. Roy S. Fluhrer, Director  
 102 Pine Knoll Drive  
 Greenville, SC 29609

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<b>Calendar of Events</b>		
ARMES Auditions		May 14-25
Voice Recital	6:30	May 15
Jazz Concert (PM Classes)	7:30	May 16
Strings Chamber Music Con- cert	7:30	May 17
Dance Concert	7:00	May 18
Last Day for Seniors		May 18
Awards Day	2:00	May 20
Graduation Rehearsal	4:00	May 21
Graduation	7:30	May 23
Last Day for FAC Underclass- men		May 25



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