The academic study of music at Muhlenberg is what opened student Victoria Ahrens’ eyes to the opportunities available to her as a major in this discipline. “I’d been performing for years but never fully understood that music was more than an extracurricular activity until I came to Muhlenberg.” Muhlenberg offers many different approaches to music: electronic, historical, cultural, theoretical, and philosophical, to name a few. “I’ve never enjoyed music so much. It is so multi-faceted and endlessly fascinating.”

Victoria says that each music class at Muhlenberg has provided a new and exciting way to analyze, experience, or participate in music. She has found that Muhlenberg’s music program gives her the freedom to experiment and try new things. The professors at Muhlenberg are open minded and excited to hear what students have to say. “I was surprised when one of my first music classes was completely discussion-based. The music classroom at Muhlenberg empowers students to think for themselves and brainstorm new ideas.” Taking classes such as World Music, Techniques of the Avant-Garde, History of Jazz, and Form and Analysis has presented Victoria with a colorful and multi-dimensional perspective on music. Victoria finds that her academic work has not only supported but contributed to her musical involvement in campus ensembles such as the Muhlenberg Opera Group and Muhlenberg’s early music group, Collegium Musicum. Victoria tells us, “Overall, I feel my experience at Muhlenberg has opened my eyes to new ways of thinking about music and has made the study of music very rewarding.”
BOOM Activities, Past and Future

In Spring of this year, BOOM traveled to New York City three times – to see the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, West Side Story on Broadway, and the Metropolitan Opera’s new production of Puccini’s Tosca. With the generous support of Dean Carol Wilson, who provides complimentary tickets, BOOM also sponsored trips to concerts of the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem. Other gatherings included a movie night featuring The Red Violin. BOOM also continued its tradition of helping with the Muhlenberg Piano Series Recitals by setting up, taking tickets, and ushering. A pizza party precedes each recital. Many of these activities will continue into the Fall semester. In addition, BOOM plans a trip to Philadelphia each Fall to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Kimmel Center.

Officers for the coming year are: Dylan High (president), Ryan Zitofsky (vice president), Melinda Clemmer (secretary), Gillian Irwin (treasurer), and Erica Rosenblum (public relations).

BOOM welcomes all Muhlenberg students with an interest in music.

BOOM is an acronym for the Berg Organization of Music. It also represents a musical sound!

A Room with a View...

For years, the Muhlenberg College Choir has rehearsed in the Recital Hall of the Baker Center for the Arts. Due to its fixed seating, it often felt like the women seated in the back rows were miles away, and the men had to set up and take down their seats on the floor level. Now both the College Choir and the Chamber Singers have moved into the new Rehearsal House with its spacious rehearsal room. It is gorgeous, and it provides us with an acoustic that enables each section to hear the other singers, contains seats designed for singing posture, and, as a bonus, has a park-like view through a wall of windows. It will take us a while to get used to our new home, but it is a wonderful luxury... and the gracious gift of a Steinway Baby Grand adds to the pleasure of making music there.

Director Jeremy Slavin and the College Choir in Rehearsal House
Focus on Faculty/Staff: Vincent Trovato

One of the most valuable members of the Music Department is one of our “unsung heroes,” pianist Vincent Trovato. Vincent accompanies 3 Student Recitals each semester, plays for prospective students who come to audition for our Talent Grants, accompanies our students on their Senior Recitals, and collaborates with his colleagues on Faculty Recitals. This past Spring he teamed up with friend and colleague Ed Bara for two performances of Schubert’s "Die Winterreise.” He has also been a Lecturer in Piano, teaching our students for the past 5 years. A versatile musician, he works closely with his students, encouraging them to explore the different styles of music that interest them.

After earning a degree in composition from Boston University, where he studied piano with Anthony Di Bonaventura, Vincent acquired extensive theatrical experience in the USA and Europe. Highlights include a tour of “My Fair Lady” with Richard Chamberlain, arranging and accompanying “Free Fall,” a one-woman show with Sandy Duncan, and contributing arrangements and accompaniment for a Noel Coward birthday celebration held in Carnegie Hall. Vincent came to Muhlenberg in 1995, serving as conductor for the Muhlenberg Summer Theatre’s productions of "Evita” and "Fiddler on the Roof.” Since then he has musically directed, conducted, and/or provided new arrangements and orchestrations for over 25 productions for the Summer Theatre and the Muhlenberg Theatre Association.

You will have several opportunities to hear Vincent this semester, including our September 25 Alumni Recital, when he will accompany baritone Jeff Williams’06 in a performance of art song. Later in the semester, on November 21, Vincent will perform with Christa Warda and guest artist Peter Schmidt in an all-Samuel Barber program, celebrating the composer’s 100th birthday. (See our Calendar of Events on pp. 5-6 for details.)
Alumni (and Student) News

Alums:

Erica Heyer ’00, has joined Stark & Stark, Attorneys at Law, in Princeton, where she handles commercial litigation. Erica, a music major (piano and organ) and business minor, received her Masters in Arts Administration from Indiana University and her Juris Doctor from Rutgers. She has worked as the Marketing and Development Assistant for Symphony in C, one of only 3 professional training orchestras in the country, and she clerked for the Honorable Andrew J. Smithson, J.S.C., in the New Jersey Superior Court. She remains actively involved in music at her church, and she was recently appointed National Music Chairman of her sorority, Phi Mu. Erica will be on campus for Homecoming, where she will lead a Phi Mu song workshop.

Katrina Holden ’05 performed as Countess Charlotte in A Little Night Music with Boston Opera Collaborative last February, and in May, she sang in the chorus of Lucia di Lammermoor with Commonwealth Opera. In October, Katrina will sing The Foreign Princess in Rusalka with DivaDay Foundation.

Jeffrey Williams ’06 has been accepted to the University of Miami’s Doctoral Program in Voice Pedagogy and Performance. Jeff did a 3-week residency at a vocal institute in Virginia, where he met Alan Johnson, Miami’s Opera Director and Voice Coach, who offered Jeff a full-tuition scholarship. Jeff will begin his studies this Fall. Jeff is an active performer in Baltimore, where he recently sang in a production of Gilbert & Sullivan’s Iolanthe for the 40th Anniversary season of the Young Victorian Theatre Company. In August, Jeff performed at the Bravo Lyric Opera Cabaret Series in Baltimore, and you can see (and hear) Jeff at Muhlenberg on September 25 when he performs at our annual Alumni Recital (see p. 5 for details).

Matthew Balaban ’10, a double major in music and neuroscience, was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Scholarship for 2011. Matt will be teaching in Bangladesh.

Students:

Anne Cawley ’12, a double major in music and English, won the St. Andrew’s Society top McFarland Scholarship for a year’s study at the University of Edinburgh. We will miss Anne, but we wish her well!

This photo below, by Sheryl Mintz, was taken after last Spring’s concert of Charles Fambrough’s Jazz Improvisation group. Included are (1 to 7) guest pianist Aaron Graves, Justin Mayfield ’10, David Goodheart ’13, Steven Mintz ’12, Lecturer in Music Charles Fambrough, Shawn Cherian ’13, Lou DiLeo ’10, and guest drummer Lennie White. White has recorded and toured with jazz greats Chick Corea and Miles Davis.
Fall 2010 Calendar of Events

September

24, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series Recital: Leon Fleisher (admission charge)
25, Saturday, 4 pm, Recital Hall – Alumni Recital: Jeffrey Williams ’06, Baritone
26, Sunday, 3 pm, Empie Theatre – Arianna String Quartet (admission charge)

October

3, Sunday, 3 pm, Egner Chapel – Conversations & Dialogues: French & American Music for Flute and Organ, Nora Sugg, Flute; Stephen Williams, Organ
9, Saturday, 7:30 pm, Recital Hall – Faculty Recital: Margaret Hanegraaf, Soprano, with Scott Nicholas, Piano
24, Sunday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Muhlenberg College Choir, Jeremy Slavin, Director
31, Sunday, 3 pm, Egner Chapel – Faculty Recital: William Newman, Guitar, with Veronica Mascaro, Flute

November

4, Thursday, 10:30 am, Recital Hall – Lecture: Lori Laitman, Guest Composer
4, Thursday, 1 pm, Recital Hall – Master Class: Lori Laitman, Guest Composer
5, Friday, 7 pm, Egner Chapel – Faculty Recital with Lori Laitman, Guest Composer
9, Tuesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, Ted Conner, Director
10, Wednesday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Student Recital (1st of 3)
10, Wednesday, 8 pm, Recital Hall – Jazz Improvisation Ensemble, Charles Fambrough, Director
12, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Piano Series Recital: Gilles Vonsattel (admission charge)
13, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Muhlenberg Collegium Musicum, Ted Conner, Director
**November, cont’d.**

19, Friday, 4:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Student Recital (2nd of 3)

19, Friday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Chamber Orchestra, Daniel Boring, Director

20, Saturday, 1:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Musica da Camera, Diane Follet, Coach

20, Saturday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Jazz Ensemble, Tony Gairo, Director

21, Sunday, 4 pm, Empie Theatre – Faculty Recital: Music of Samuel Barber – Christa Warda, Soprano; Vincent Trovato, Piano; with guest artist, Peter Schmidt

22, Monday, 4:30 pm, Recital Hall – Student Recital (3rd of 3)

**December**

4, Saturday, 4 pm, Egner Chapel – Lehigh Saengerbund Chorus Annual Christmas Concert (free will offering)

4, Saturday, 8 pm, Empie Theatre – Muhlenberg Wind Ensemble, Albert J. Neumeyer, Director

11, Saturday, 7:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Candlelight Carol Services (call the Chapel, 484-664-3121, for ticket information)

12, Sunday, 3:30 & 7:30 pm, Egner Chapel – Candlelight Carol Services (call the Chapel, 484-664-3121, for ticket information)

*Please note: these events are subject to change. For the latest information, consult the College Calendar online.*

*Unless otherwise noted, admission is free. Call 484-664-3363 for further information.*
Introducing Andrew Oster

Andrew Oster is a Visiting Instructor in the Music Department for the 2010–11 academic year. Dr. Oster recently completed his Ph.D. in musicology at Princeton University with a dissertation entitled “Radio, Rubble, and Reconstruction: The Genre of Funkoper in Postwar Occupied Germany and the German Federal Republic, 1946–1957.” Dr. Oster’s study of this experimental genre is part of his broader interest in the intersection of musical modernism, technology, and politics in twentieth-century Germany. His research has been supported by a German Academic Exchange Service (D.A.A.D.) grant in 2008 and an American Musicological Society AMS 50 Fellowship in 2009. Currently he is working on an article on German composer Hans Werner Henze’s 1951 radio opera Ein Landarzt (A Country Doctor), the first musical setting of a text by Franz Kafka. Dr. Oster has previously taught at Davidson College and at the Princeton Writing Program, where he developed and led a freshman writing seminar on the topic of Motown Records.

At Muhlenberg, Dr. Oster will teach the music history survey and “Introduction to Music.” His course this Fall, “Opera after 1900,” explores six landmark twentieth-century operas, from Puccini’s Madama Butterfly to John Adams’s Nixon in China. In the Spring, he will teach a course on rock and pop music. Dr. Oster is excited to be part of Muhlenberg’s liberal arts community and to be around such engaged and enthusiastic students.

Music exalts life, enhances life, and gives it meaning . . . It is an irreplaceable, undeserved, transcendental blessing.
–Anthony Storr, Music and the Mind

Music at Muhlenberg,

Diane Follet, Editor,

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We hope you have enjoyed reading about us. If you have ideas for articles, alumni news, or comments about this newsletter, please contact the Editor at dfollet@muhlenberg.edu.

We’re on the Web:
http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/music/