

RU Music Notes

Newsletter of Radford University's Department of Music

Spring 2011

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Covington Center Houses New Performance Hall & Recording Studio

The Douglas and Beatrice Covington Center for Visual and performing Arts opened during the 2008-2009 academic year, and is home to a new state of the art concert hall and recording studio.

The beautiful concert hall is used throughout the year by the Department of Music for student and guest recitals as well as for concerts featuring all of Radford University's performing ensembles.

The hall has an amazing acoustic quality, and can be adjusted to fit almost any variety of musical performance. Guest performances have included the Ibla Grand Prize Gala, and the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra.

The recording studio is located in the back of the concert hall, and is equipped with all of the necessary electronics for recording, mastering and videotaping student and ensemble performances. RU's Music Business majors use the performances in Covington to hone their craft, making constant use of the facility's most up to date equipment and instruments.

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Residential Governor's School Gives Music Education Students Real World Experiences

Last summer, for the first time in its history, Radford University hosted residential Governor's school for the Visual and Performing Arts as well as Humanities.

The Governor's School program was held June 26 through July 24, 2010. It provided a small group of RU's music education majors with a unique opportunity to utilize their skills in music while mentoring and monitoring

the high school students participating in the program.

400 of Virginia's most artistically and musically gifted rising juniors and seniors Performing arts students who participated in the month-long program were grouped together with other students from around the state to form chamber groups, which were directed by music education students with instrumental and vocal focuses.

Kevin Schwenk, an RU student who has since graduated and moved on to pursue his masters degree in performance and theory, said the experience was very rewarding and has had a profound influence on him.

"I was responsible for my own group of 16 people, which were comprised mostly of VPA students," said Schwenk. "I loved the experience and hope to get the chance to do it again." Schwenk was employed by the university as a

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COVINGTON (from Page 1)

Dr. Timothy Channell, Director of RU's Music Business program, describes the performance hall and studio:

"The performance hall was completed in January of 2009. The music department moved into the Covington Center at that time. The hall will seat approximately 320 people. The hall itself is an acoustic marvel. It is designed very simi-

larly to the inside of a piano and, as such, resonates very well. The cost of construction was 22.5 million dollars.

The studio is the 'command center' for the performance hall. It is equipped to record with state of the art recording software, ProTools HD, and equipment. It houses a MacPro quad hard drive computer, a complete ProTools HD program, the ability to mass-produce CDs. A video station allows for video capturing of all performances in the hall and a lighting station provides for the visual enhancement of the performances. All performances in the hall are recorded, both audio and video, edited and mastered by students. The final product is housed in the Covington Listening Center."

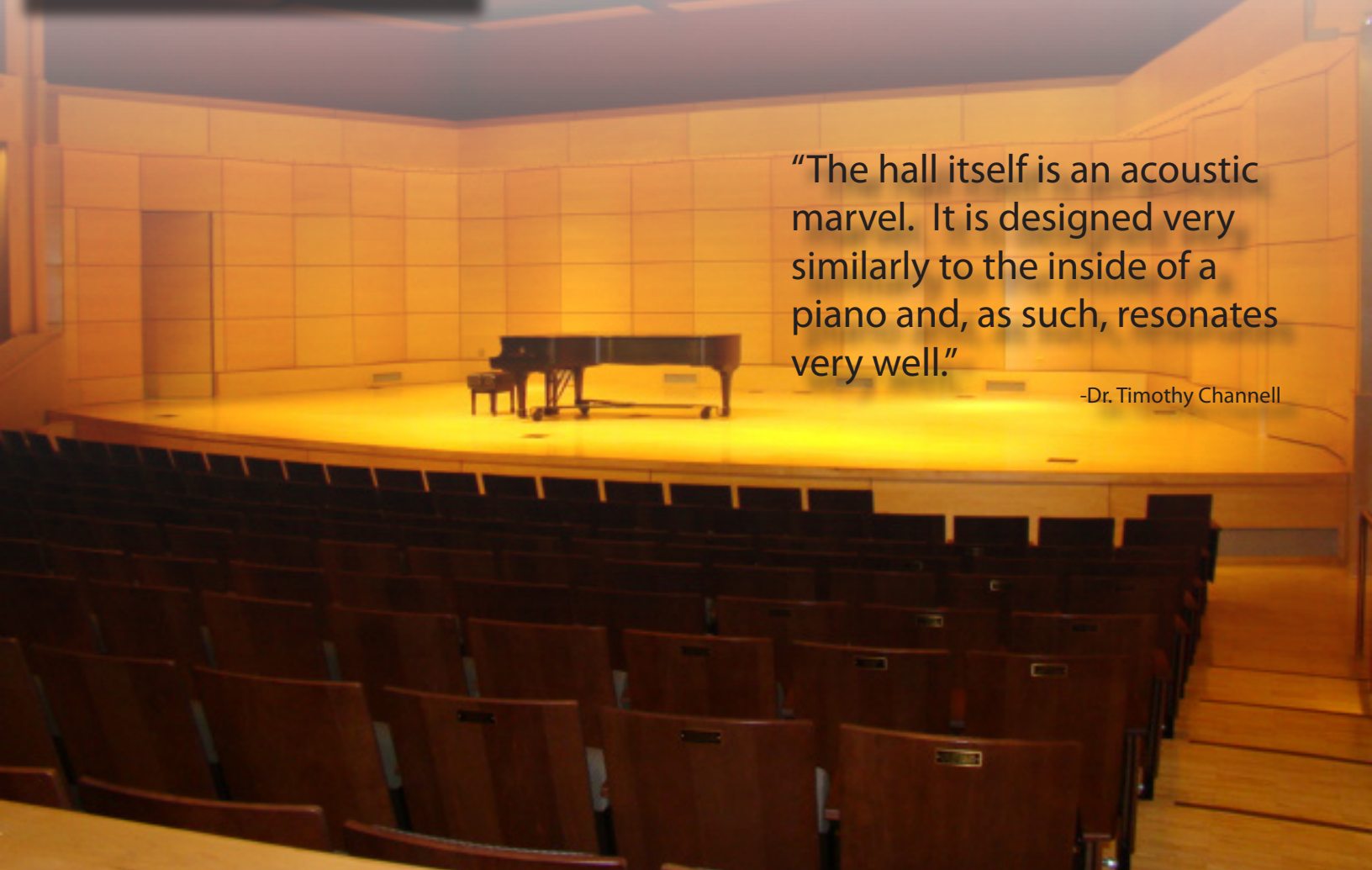
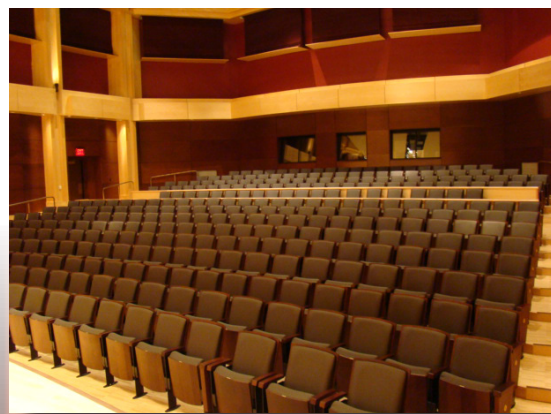


Faculty and students alike have benefitted greatly from the addition of the recording studio. Students can visit the Covington Listening Center, which is multi-purposed as a library, a computer lab and listening lounge, and download recordings of their performances from the department's music server, "Opus 10".

Visitors to the Department of Music are encouraged to tour the facilities and learn more about what the Covington Center has to offer.

"The hall itself is an acoustic marvel. It is designed very similarly to the inside of a piano and, as such, resonates very well."

-Dr. Timothy Channell



The Beatles 'Whisper Words of Wisdom' to Faculty Jazz Quartet

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On Monday, Oct. 25, 2010, the Covington Center came to life as Radford Faculty Jazz Quartet presented "A Jazz Tribute to the Beatles."

The quartet amazed a full house with their rendition of Beatles' songs. If John Lennon were alive, he would approve of the men's performance.

Members of the quartet include Dr. Christopher White on saxophones and flute, Dr. Wayne Gallops on piano and vocal, Dr. Joe Scartelli on the bass and Mr. Wojtera on the drums. All of these men hold extensive reputable backgrounds in the arts, teaching, performing and jazz.

The Covington Center was so packed they had to put seats on the stage to accommodate everyone. People rushed to the stage as the announcer said there would be additional seating up close.

As everyone found a seat, Gallops said, "Are we at the right place?"

White looked at him, looked at the crowd, then responded, "Thought this was a Spring-stein concert."

Then they filled the air with Lennon and Paul McCartney's "Eleanor Rigby."

After "Eleanor Rigby" ended and the cheers faded away, Wojtera told the story behind the snazzy jacket he wore.

"Takes a lot of nerve wearing this jacket," Wojtera said.

The faded yellow suit-jacket he was sporting originally belonged to Mitch Mitchell, drummer from the Jimi Hendrix Experience. When Mitchell arrived by helicopter at Woodstock, he handed the jacket to Richard Bays, art professor at RU. After Mitchell finished the show, Bays tried to return it.

Mitchell said, "Keep it." Wojtera, on the

other hand, did return the jacket back to Bays—Probably a little bit apprehensively—then said, "Now, we'll let our music do the talking."

And they did just that. Audience members couldn't help but bob their heads, tap their toes and sway their feet to the jazzed up tunes of the Beatles. FJQ really amazed the masses with their dynamic stage presence.

All of the musicians exchanged self-assured smiles as they played nostalgic tunes. The gentleman slapping away at the large stand-up bass and providing the underlying framework for the songs was none other than Scartelli Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Scartelli, who started the music therapy program in 1981, jokingly said, "This is a side gig in case this provost thing doesn't work out."

Scartelli is temporarily standing in as interim provost. Next fall, he will return to being the Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Wojtera, who plays the drums, is currently chairman of the department of music. He also is a percussionist for the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and the Opera Roanoke & Wintergreen Festival Orchestra. Not only does he play in orchestras, he conducts them too. Wojtera has conducted RU productions such as the Nutcracker Ballet.

The FJQ not only does covers, but members also create their own music. In early December, White, the director of jazz studies and instructor of music and saxophone education, is releasing an album called "In My Own Sweet

Time." White's album will be a compilation of his original works. Other members of the FJQ will be featured on the album along with RU students.

Another member of the FJQ, Gallops, has also conducted groups such as The Irish Tenors, The Funk Brothers of Motown and numerous others. Gallops, director of bands and assistant professor of music education, released his first solo album in 2008, titled "Jazzicale."

The show was filled with nonstop entertainment. FJQ didn't just play the songs; they acted in them. During one song, the band left the stage and Gallops sang a soulful version of "Got to Get You Back in My Life." Gallops wailed away as he played his piano. As he stroked every key, one could feel the emotion pouring out of each note he hit. Gallops didn't stay solo for long. Like a lonely catcall, White played his saxophone from the back of the music hall. Slowly, he

made his way to the stage, belting out sad notes. A girl at the end of the second row got a mini serenade when he stopped to play to her before getting back on stage.

The band wrapped it up with sweet versions of "Let It Be" and "Hey Jude." Gallops sang soulfully and asked people to join in. The crowd started singing along with "Hey Jude."

Then, as the band was nearing the end, people began standing up playing instruments. One by one, students from the audience stood up wielding clarinets, flutes, trombones, trumpets and saxophones. Some even came in through side doors. Everyone began singing louder and the music played until everyone was standing. The moment the song ended the crowd went crazy.

The men of the FJQ really knew how to "take a sad song and make it better." Inside the heart of the Covington Center, there was more than just a band playing old music. It was about reliving what The Beatles stood for. It was about the people coming together and feeling the connection. It was about the brotherhood and love of the people. If we can come together and feel that connection with music, we should be able to come together and create peace. As John Lennon said, "So why not give peace a chance for once?"

The Faculty Jazz Quartet plays numerous concerts throughout the academic year. It is comprised of (from left) Mr. Al Wojtera, Dr. Wayne Gallops, Dr. Chris White, and Dr. Joseph Scartelli.

“Now, we'll let
the music do the
talking.”

-Al Wojtera, Chairman of RU's
Department of Music



Photo courtesy of Wayne Gallops

Student Performance Opportunities

Instrumental Music

Radford University Bands regularly present concert performances on campus and receive invitations to perform throughout Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region. In addition to the 65-member **University Symphonic Band**, the 45-member **Wind Ensemble** is a smaller, more select band, open to qualified undergraduate and graduate students.

The Radford University **Percussion Ensemble** performs standard works of the percussion repertoire, transcriptions, adaptations, original compositions for keyboard percussion and the most current releases of contemporary literature. The RU ensemble has toured public schools and universities throughout Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, performed for the VMEA State Conference and has been featured in both Va. and N.C. Percussive Arts Society's Days of Percussion.

The Radford University **Chamber Orchestra** is a string orchestra with around 16 musicians that performs work by Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th century composers. In the Fall, the orchestra rehearses and performs as a Baroque ensemble with cembalo (harpsichord). All qualified string players are welcome to join the orchestra.

The **University Jazz Ensembles** have become exciting and popular performing groups, both on campus and on tour throughout Virginia. The Jazz Ensemble, Jazztet and jazz combos perform compositions representing a large variety of jazz idioms, both early and contemporary.

The Radford University **Guitar Ensemble** is composed of guitar majors, minors and non-majors by audition. The ensemble performs both on and off campus and has toured throughout the mid-Atlantic. Performances have often involved singers, other instrumentalists and collaborations with the Department of Dance. Music from around the world is

performed alongside standard repertoire. The instrumental collection includes a south American Requinto Guitar, a Renaissance lute, and an acoustic bass guitar.

The Radford University **Digital Ensemble** varies in composition depending on the interests and needs of the students enrolled in the course. The Center for Music Technology maintains several electronic instruments: Yamaha WX11 (electronic wind controller); a four-octave mallet KAT keyboard percussion instrument; Zeta MIDI violin; pitch to MIDI conversion hardware; MIDI Guitar; Buchla "Lightning" infrared MIDI baton controllers; analog and digital synthesizers; and electronic instruments made by the ensemble known as Toy Boxes. In addition, students often bring their own instruments to integrate with the group's instruments.

Pianists can participate in a variety of solo and collaborative performances at Radford. The new concert hall in the Douglas and Beatrice Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts houses two Steinway concert grand pianos. Pianists can participate in chamber groups, duos and a variety of accompanying activities. There are plenty of opportunities to work and perform collaboratively. Pianists may also choose to emphasize performance and/or accompanying in their chosen degree programs.

There are a number of **chamber music** performance opportunities at Radford University. They include:

- Woodwind quintets
- Brass quintets
- String chamber groups

Vocal Music

The choral program at Radford University includes four ensembles covering the entire spectrum of choral music. At the focal point of the program are the two select choirs, **Radford Singers** and the **Madrigal Singers**. Radford Singers is the University concert choir, performing choral music from the Renaissance to the 21st Century. The Madrigal Singers focus on secular and sacred music from the Renaissance, as well as chamber music works from later periods.

The **University Men's Chorus** is a men's choir which presents various classical works, chants and Barbershop works.

The **University Chorale**, a select choir of sopranos and altos presents numerous concerts both on and off campus each year. Radford University Chorale has existed in some form since the founding days of Radford College for Women, and as such is the oldest performing vocal ensemble on campus.

Each year, all four ensemble groups perform extended works with instrumental accompaniment such as Mozart's Requiem, Carl Orff's Carmina Burana, Verdi's Requiem, Brahms' Requiem, and Haydn's Mass in Time of War. Master works such as these are often performed with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and with various other collegiate and professional choral ensembles.

The Radford University **Opera Ensemble** presents a one-act opera for children every fall, in addition to fully-staged scenes and arias from contemporary and standard opera repertoire in the Spring.

The annual **Madrigal Dinner** is a highlight of the Christmas season for the university and community, featuring performances by the Madrigal Singers, Radford Singers, and University Chorus.



The Department of Music provides students with a broad array of opportunities to perform collaboratively and in solo settings. Please click through this interactive slideshow to see more images of Radford's music majors in action!

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL (from Page 1)

resident counselor and he was involved with teaching and coaching a wood-wind quintet and quartet.

He feels very strongly about the program and he believes it has a lot to offer other music education students. "I would almost go as far as to say it should be a mandatory experience for music education majors at RU, because it is such an enriching experience," said Schwenk.

Throughout their month on campus, the Governor's School students rehearsed a number of pieces with their respective chamber groups, as well as a number of other performance activities, which culminated in a festival-style closing day.

Parents and family members of the young students came to experience what the students had spent their month learning and doing on the Radford campus. For the performing arts students, this meant a concert featuring all of the various chamber groups, where the students showcased their talents for parents and guests.

RU will host the Governor's school program for three more summers, allowing even more opportunities for the Department of Music to display the

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(Left and below)
The final day of Governor's School was filled with concert presentations by the students. Students performed for their families in the Covington Center.

talents of its music education majors.

The 2011 Residential Governor's School program for Visual and Performing arts and Humanities at RU will take place between June 26 and July 23. Students have already been auditioned by faculty members from the Department of Music for this summer's program.

Some of the RU students who worked as counselors last year are planning to return this summer for Governor's School, and they are hoping for an equally rewarding experience the second time around.



Student Organizations

RU music students participate in campus organizations, professional clubs and fraternities and student chapters of national professional associations.

Opportunities exist for music students of all areas of interest within the department.

Music Majors Organization

Arts and Entertainment Business Association

Music Educators National Conference, Student Chapter No. 451

The Music Therapy Student Organization of Radford University

The Southwest Virginia Classical Guitar Society

Mu Phi Epsilon International Professional Music Fraternity, Alpha Zeta Chapter

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Xi Theta Chapter

Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, Theta Mu Chapter

Sigma Alpha Iota International Musical Fraternity for Women, Eta Upsilon Chapter

For more information, visit the Department of Music's Student Organizations webpage.

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity Members Bring Music To the Community

Members of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity put their talents to use for a good cause on Feb. 4, 2011, bringing joy into the lives of residents at Wheatland Hills in Radford. Taking time to provide entertainment for the residents is one of the many positive things fraternities like theirs do within our local community through service projects.

Since Phi Mu Alpha is a music fraternity, they have a strong conviction to bring music into their service to the community. The members share that conviction with their fraternity's founder, Ossian Everett Mills, whose mission they were there to support that evening.

Seventeen of Phi Mu Alpha's members came out to sing and play songs for a group of residents, and spent time having conversation during their visit.

"Brothers in Phi Mu Alpha share an impassioned zeal for the importance of music," said Jason Booth, a senior, and President of the Radford University chapter. "Through the utilization of this, we regularly find ways to emphasize brotherhood, service, and performance in music. We sponsor concerts, perform at elderly homes and hospitals, and both bring in and host musical clinics for music students."

The fraternity has 22 active members from a wide range of backgrounds and majors, including the arts, biology, sociology, computer science and political science.

Radford University's Greek community is made up of 28 fraternities and sororities, all of which participate in service projects within the community throughout the academic year. In December, 2010, Greek Life held the "Fill the Truck Food Drive" and collected over 10,000 pounds of non-perishable



food for the hungry. Phi Mu Alpha's effort is one more example of the positive work RU students can do in the community.

"It's always a pleasure to perform at Wheatland Hills," Booth said. "The residents are always incredibly grateful for the music and the company. This time, we also brought a few flowers for each resident, and you could really see their eyes light up. Their happiness is our happiness and it really encompasses why we do a lot of what we do."

Charles Rakes, a junior music major, has been in Phi Mu Alpha for about two years. He played jazz music with another of the brothers while the residents tapped their feet, sang along and shared dances with some of the fraternity members.

"It was very touching in a way," Rakes said. "Music can bring back memories and bring back feelings long-since-forgotten. I saw a few of the residents crying and reminiscing about old times, and it's a joy that I honestly cannot describe."

Judy White, one of Wheatland Hills' direct care providers, was happy to see how much the residents enjoyed the company. She spoke about the therapeutic effects music has on the residents she cares for.

"It lifts their spirits and makes them feel more alive," White said. "It's very emotionally stimulating."

White said the residents always enjoy interactions with people from the surrounding community, and that it is easy to see the effect it has on them.

"It makes them feel more connected with the outside world, and shows them that life doesn't have to be dull all the time," White said.





Faculty Profile:

Dr. R. Wayne Gallops Director of Bands and Instrumental Music Education

Dr. R. Wayne Gallops serves as Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music Education at Radford University. His responsibilities include conducting the RU Wind Ensemble / Chamber Winds / Symphonic Band, instructing Music Education and Conducting courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, and supervision of music education interns. Prior to his appointment at Radford University, Dr. Gallops served on the faculties of The University of Tampa, The University of South Florida, and Hillsborough Community College. For seventeen years, he served as a music educator for the Hillsborough County Public Schools (Tampa, Florida.). His high school bands consistently received national and international acclaim, presented superior performances at Florida Bandmasters Association state festivals, appeared in the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival, and toured Japan.

Dr. Gallops is active throughout the United States as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and performer on clarinet and piano. He has served as conductor and musical director for various opera and theater companies, and continues to guest conduct many school-community-professional ensembles and honor bands. As a conductor, pianist, and clarinetist, Gallops has performed and recorded with numerous artists including; The Tallahassee Symphony, Florida West Coast Symphony, The Florida Lyric Opera, Ronan Tyner and the Irish Tenors, The Broadway Theater Project, Eddie Arnold, Dianne Carroll, Eric Darius, and The Funk Brothers of Motown. His first solo CD album - "Jazzical" - was released in 2007.



Dr. Gallops' varied research interests explore musician's response to conducting gesture, music classroom-rehearsal management strategies, and philosophical issues germane to music education in secondary schools. His work has been published or highlighted in many publications including; The Journal of Music Teacher Education, Journal of Band Research, Teaching Music (MENC), The Instrumentalist, Band and Orchestra Magazine, The Florida Music Director, The Jazz Times, Bands of America Magazine, The St. Petersburg Times, and The Tampa Tribune.

Dr. Gallops is honored through membership in Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Mu Alpha, Who's Who Among American Teachers, Outstanding Young Men of America, and has been awarded Citations of Excellence from the National Band Association for outstanding contributions to bands, band music, and instrumental music education.

Gallops holds degrees from Hillsborough Community College (A.A.), The University of Tampa (B.A.), Florida State University (M.M.E.), and The University of South Florida (Ph.D.).

Please Take a Seat...

... and enjoy a fantastic performance at Radford University

March

March 2, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Band Concert – Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band

March 3, Thursday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Jazz Ensemble & Jazztet Concert

March 14, Monday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Faculty Recital, “Almost Spring” – Nitza Kats, Piano, and friends

March 21, Monday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Faculty Recital – “Pandemusicum” - Christopher White, Director

March 24, Thursday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Guest Artist Recital - Martin Jones, Pianist

March 30, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Bondurant Auditorium, Preston Hall, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, University Performance Series

March 31, Thursday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Guest Recital – The Castillon String Trio

April

April 1 - 3, Friday - Sunday, RU International Guitar Festival

April 1, Friday, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Masterclass, 8:00 p.m., Recital

April 2, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, 8:00 p.m., Recital

April 3, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Masterclass

April 7, Thursday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, 2011 Gala Concert - 2010 Ibla International Grand Prize Winners

April 10 & 12, Sunday at 2:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Opera Ensemble, Scenes and Arias

April 13, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Chamber Orchestra Concert

April 14 - 16, Thursday - Saturday, Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Annual NRV Jazz Festival and SW Virginia Solo and Ensemble Festival

April 15, Friday, 8:00 p.m., RU Jazz Ensemble & Jazztet Concert

April 18, Monday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Choral Concert – Spring Oratorio

April 20, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Band Concert – Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band

April 21, Thursday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Percussion Ensemble Concert

April 24, Sunday, 4:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Jazz Concert - RU Jazz Band II and Combos

April 26, Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Guitar Ensemble Concert

April 27, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Performance Hall in the Covington Center, RU Chamber Winds Concert

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