

*January 2023*

# BYU SCHOOL OF MUSIC *Journal*

*Sharing the Light*

# Celebrate the Abundance In Our Lives

Happy New Year! This season of new beginning offers such promise of light and joy, and we certainly feel that here in the BYU School of Music. As we continue to settle into the new Music Building, we are met each day with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for what we have been given and the enormous trust that has been placed in us to use this new and astounding facility to our best individual and collective abilities to enhance and magnify our efforts to share light throughout the world. We are committed more than ever to do so! We also see this building as yet another symbol of the unfathomable gift of abundance Our Father in Heaven gives so freely to all His children. When we pause to look around and truly recognize all He has given us in this life, we should be filled with love, appreciation, and gratefulness for the knowledge that we are His and He is our Father. And if we seek Him first in all we do, He promises ALL that is His to us. The gospel is truly all about abundance. This edition of the School of Music Journal celebrates this abundance. We celebrate the opportunities given us in 2022 to share light through the gifts of talent and the diligent effort of students and faculty. We celebrate the abundant heritage of those upon whose shoulders we stand. We celebrate the promise of opportunity in 2023 to share with others what Father has given to us.

In this new year, we invite you to enjoy what we have to share with you. Then, we invite you to share the abundance of light in your life with others.





Dr. Mark Ammons  
Assistant Director  
Brigham Young University School of  
Music

Journal Editors  
Arielle Cline, Kate Parrish, Sarah Griffin



January 2023

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# CURRENT

November–December 2022



## DOUBLE REED ROUNDUP

The Wind Division's Double Reed Roundup was held on November 4 and 5. Two guest artists, Jung Choi (oboe) and Kathleen McLean (bassoon) were featured at the event. The Roundup included masterclasses in oboe, bassoon, chamber music, and reed making.



## NEW BYU WOMEN'S CHORUS MUSIC VIDEO

The BYU Women's Chorus released a new music video featuring Ryan Murphy's arrangement of "Beautiful Savior." Dr. Sonja Poulter conducted the group. Click the image on the left to view.

# SYNTHESIS

Synthesis performed and celebrated the music of Charles Mingus and Jaki Byard on (insert date). This was the first Synthesis concert conducted by Ben Nichols, the new saxophone professor and director of Synthesis.



# BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

On November 10, the Baroque Ensemble performed, featuring music by Vivaldi, Telemann, and others. Alexander Woods, professor of Violin, directed the concert. Click the image on the left to view a clip of their concert.



## BYU CONCERT CHOIR'S MUSIC VIDEO DEBUT

The BYU Concert Choir released a new video "In Christ Alone" arranged by Brent Wells. Click the image on the left to view.



## DOMINIK WAGNER

On November 7, Dominik Wagner, a young Viennese virtuoso, visited campus as a special guest. Wagner has received multiple awards for his performance on the double bass.



## MOUNTAIN STRINGS AND FOLK ENSEMBLES

Mountain Strings, Celtic Ensemble, and American Folk ensemble held a concert on November 15. The program included traditional American music styles such as bluegrass, Appalachian, ragtime, and Texas swing as well as various music from Ireland and Scotland.

## BYU HONORS STRING QUARTET

The BYU Honors String Quartet performed on December 2. They featured works by Mozart and Shostakovich.





## UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA & UNIVERSITY STRINGS

On November 19, the University Orchestra and University Strings performed their concert "Around the World in 80 Minutes." J. Alexander Bennett, Andre Gaspar, and Noelle Singleton conducted the program.

## NEWS BYU MEN'S CHORUS MUSIC VIDEO

The BYU Men's Chorus released a new music video, "A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief," featuring Robert Brandt. Brent Wells, the group's conductor, arranged the piece. Click the image on the right to watch.







## WOODWIND CHAMBER NIGHT

On November 29, various woodwind chamber groups performed a variety of pieces composed by Mozart, Gary Schocker, Robin O'Neill, Michael Collins, Philippa Davies, Richard Watkins & Gareth Hulse. Click the image on the left to watch.

## CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

On December 2 and 3, the BYU Singers, Concert Choir, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, and BYU Philharmonic all performed together in the Harris Fine Arts Center for the last time. Celebration of Christmas is a well-loved annual concert that celebrates the sounds of the holiday season.







## BYU SINGERS CHRISTMAS MUSIC VIDEO

The BYU Singers released a new Christmas music video: their cover of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," arranged by Molly Ijames. Click the image on the left to watch.

## NEW TIMPANI

BYU Percussion received this pair of refurbished baroque timpani from Harrison Powley, former BYU School of Music musicology professor. This set was machined and given chain tuning by Precision Classic Timpani in Michigan.



# BYU SINGERS TOUR TO SPAIN

BYU Singers Tour to Spain: The BYU Singers have recently returned from an award-winning trip to Spain. They participated in the 53rd International Choral Contest of Tolosa. The BYU Singers were specifically asked to participate in the competition. They won second place in the folk category and third place in the polyphony category." American choirs, while having a great experience at the festival overall, do not typically medal at international competitions. Dr. Andrew Crane, director of the BYU Singers, said "I believe that all of the students would agree that we never performed our repertoire better than we did on the night of the two competitions. There was a magic in the hall that I cannot quite describe."



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BYURadio  
Constant Wonder

From the  
Streets to  
Symphony Hall:  
The Improbable  
Backstory of a  
World-Class  
Tuba Player

**RICHARD  
ANTOINE  
WHITE**

@Darren Durlach / Early Light Media



"As a young child, Richard Antoine White was rescued from life on the streets, fostered, and mentored. He chased a dream to play classical music, and now, as a mentor himself, he encourages others to dream big. With humility and humor, the tubist shares his unique journey. Listen to his interview by BYU Radio's program, Constant Wonder."

**Click [HERE](#) to listen to his experience becoming the principal tubist for the Santa Fe Symphony and the New Mexico Philharmonic.**

Constant Wonder is a podcast that explores hidden marvels in nature, forgotten heroes of history, and life stories that inspire. You can listen to episodes on all major podcast platforms, on the BYUradio app, and on their website [HERE](#).

# "The P R O M I S E O F C H R I S T M A S "

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hosted an event titled "The Promise of Christmas".

This concert featured BYU ensemble, Mountain Strings. As well as BYU students, Arielle Cline & Melodie Wride and BYU faculty Lindsay Davis and Mark Geslison.



Click the images to watch!





# 12 Days of Christmas



*Click images above to view.*



# Light the World Nomination

Noelle Wiley

Student in the Bass Studio, BA in Music

- "Noelle is always kind to everyone and helps those around her to have a positive outlook on the difficult situations they face."
- "Noelle is always helping everyone around her and puts others first."
- "Noelle is overwhelmingly positive, more so than anyone else that I have ever known, and is constantly sharing the light of Christ through her Christlike examples, acts of service, and beaming personality."





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# alumni highlight:

## Richard Williams

Richard Williams is a versatile composer skilled in a wide spectrum of genres and moods from epic orchestral to touching piano to fast-paced EDM. While earning his bachelor's degree at Brigham Young University, he won two Student Emmys at the College TV Awards for his film scores to BYU's animations. Following his education, he went on to record book-soundtrack music for Brandon Sanderson's fantasy novel "The Way of Kings." Richard is a founding member of the cinematic pop band TREN, whose numerous projects include music for Tencent's PUBG MOBILE video game and author Sariah Wilson's novel "Moonstruck." Williams recently returned from the Hollywood Music in Media Awards, Awards Show on Nov 16th 2022, as he was nominated in the New/Emerging Composer category.



His latest work is his debut album Hollywood Christmas that revisits the world of timeless Christmas big band jazz and orchestral music in the style of musical legends such as Frank Sinatra, Michael Bublé, and The Carpenters.

Click [HERE](#) to check out Richard William's website.

Richard Williams began his music endeavors with piano lessons early on. He soon started to experiment with different kinds of instruments. In sixth grade, he started to compose, but it was only after his discovery of new music-composing software after returning home from a mission in 2007, that he leapt into music composition. "I would go to the BYU Library on the fourth floor, as there they had a couple Macbook computers in the back with Logic, a music development software platform. I stayed there for hours and hours working on projects for years because I didn't have my own." Williams then tried to get into the School of Music four times. In 2009, he was finally admitted. He started in the Commercial Music program his fifth year at BYU while also majoring in Japanese. While at BYU, Williams won two Student Emmys for his compositions in BYU animation projects. The first Emmy was in 2010 for the BYU animation called "Mashed," and the other in 2014, his last year at BYU, called "Chasm." He also composed for the various ensembles in the School of Music such as the BYU Philharmonic, the Symphonic Band, and Women's Chorus.

**"I enjoyed BYU. I felt like it was a very safe place and it allowed me to focus on my music."**





Williams is excited to announce the release of his debut album *Hollywood Christmas* in which he composed, arranged, conducted, and produced. "In 2017, I went to Chris Walden's masterclass, who writes for Michael Bublé and Josh Groban, and recorded one of my original songs that I wrote years ago. After, I realized that I wanted to come back and write a Michael Bublé-level album, so I did."

The thirteen-track album took Williams two full years to write and is a blend of mainstream jazz. Nine of the tracks were recorded at Capitol Studios in Hollywood, with some of the best players in the world including Wayne Bergeron and Eric Marienthal. The other tracks were then recorded in Budapest, Hungary. "A third of the album is just the band, a third is just the orchestra, and the last third is a blend of both" says Williams.



Williams referred to "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" as being one of his favorite tracks on the album because "it pulls out all the stops with all the instruments, including the band, orchestra, and backup singers. I wanted to say that I practically used the whole gauntlet of singers, and woodwinds and strings and brass. That was my goal."

The new album is available on iTunes, [Amazon](#) and all other streaming services.



RICHARD WILLIAMS

HOLLYWOOD  
CHRISTMAS

Click [HERE](#) to listen on Spotify.

Click [HERE](#) to listen on iTunes/Apple Music.

Click [HERE](#) to listen on Pandora.

Click [HERE](#) to purchase the album.

When asked what he has learned from his years of studying music, Williams responded, “I have learned that God answers your prayers when you are on the move. I think similarly with music, you have to be moving, you have to be creating, you have to be showing the world that you are good, because there is so much talent out there, and there is so much noise. It is important to stand out.”

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# Oscarson Lecture Series



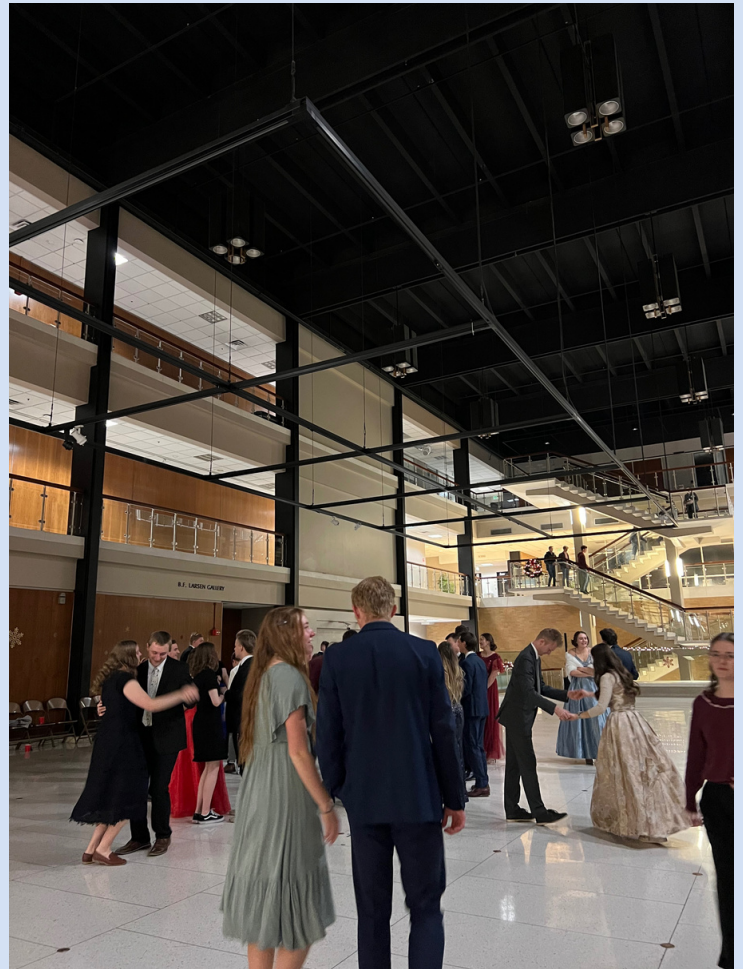
*Rob Dunn, "Our Search  
for Musicality: A Joyful  
and Eternal Quest."*

Dr. Rob Dunn presented at the Oscarson Lecture Series on Thursday, November 10, 2022 with insights regarding the nature of musicality, how to nurture it in ourselves and others, and how expanding the richness of our musical lives can have immediate as well as eternal effects. **Click the image below** to watch a clip of the lecture.



# ***HFAC FAREWELL FORMAL***

*BYU graduate and undergraduate students filled the HFAC gallery on December 9th to dance and celebrate the legacy of the HFAC.*





# STUDENT RECITALS



**LELA PACKARD**  
Piano



**LINDSAY DRAPER**  
Violin



**KATE MURRY REICH**  
Violin

**Click Kate's photo to watch a clip!**



**THOMAS KINDER**  
Tuba



**AVERY GUNNELL**  
Piano



**CHRISTIAN NIELSEN**  
Piano



**MAILE CHOCK**  
Guitar



**BROOKE SCOTT**  
Violin

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On December 18th, 2022, Andy Crane and Brent Wells helped complete BYU's fifth student residency with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, one of the nation's leading professional chamber choirs.



BYU students and Dr. Brent Wells having a Q & A discussion with Joshua Habermann, Artistic Director of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale.

*"Dr. Brent Wells and I strive to give BYU students practical knowledge about ways to earn income as a classical vocal artist.*

*Last night we completed our fifth BYU student residency with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and the people pictured demonstrate the impact of the collaboration:*

***Heather McMurray: BYU alumna, in eighth season as professional artist with SFDC***

***Savannah Porter: BYU senior, in second season as professional artist with SFDC***

***Courtney Lawson: BYU alumna, current Company Manager for SFDC***

***Joanna Armstrong: BYU alumna, Marketing and Communications Manager for SFDC***

***Jinxin Fu, Ethan Simpson, Blake Wayment, Nicole Dayton, Mark Hansen: BYU student participants in the 2022 residency***

***Faculty facilitators Andy Crane and Brent Wells: BYU alumni, over a decade each as professional artists with SFDC***

***We express gratitude for the BYU Experiential Learning program and the resources that make this collaboration possible.***

*"Making it" as a classical singer in 2022 is a multi-faceted path that typically includes activities across multiple genres, as well as private teaching. Choral music plays an important role in a singer's professional career."*

*Andrew Crane*

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# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



In the Laffont Competition (Met Opera) for Utah District three BYU students were selected from a national prescreening round to compete at the district level: Sarah Knight, Ellie Warner Niver, and Savannah Porter.

Sarah Knight was awarded an Encouragement Award, and Savannah Porter is one of the winners who will advance to the regional level in Denver, CO.

## MTNA/UMTA COMPETITIONS

Many BYU piano students participated in MTNA/UMTA (Music Teachers National Association Performance competitions) and received high placements.

MTNA/UMTA is the biggest piano competition in Utah.

Congratulations to the following students:

**Jill Smith** placed 2nd in the Senior Division

**Jacob Warnick** placed 2nd in the Young Artist Division

**Beth Vandam** received an Honorable Mention, the Young Artist Division

**Christian Nielsen** received an Honorable Mention, the Young Artist Division



## JOHN BURTON

John Burton received 2nd Place in the College/Professional Category at the International Clarinet Competition of the American Single Reed Summit 2022.

## ARIELLE CLINE

Arielle is a member of the group Three Reds. Three Reds tied for the first place music award for Best Video Production at the Vocal Sport Awards. This award was for their music video, "Danny Boy and Molly." You can watch it [HERE](#). The music video has also been selected to screen at the 22nd Annual Zions Indie Film Fest this coming March.



## PIANO NATIONAL CONFERENCE INVITATIONS

Four BYU Piano students were invited to present at National Conferences in 2023. Congratulations to the following students:

**Jacie Glenn** at the MTNA Collegiate Symposium in Fort Worth, Texas.  
**Lela Packard** at the MTNA Collegiate Symposium in Fort Worth, Texas.  
**Sylvan Scott** at the MTNA Collegiate Symposium in Fort Worth, Texas.  
**Savannah Jones** at the MTNA National Conference in Reno, Nevada.



## CARSON RIPLEY AND HEATHER CUTLER

BYU Commercial Music students Carson Ripley and Heather Cutler are part of the band Beeson that won the Velour's Battle of the Bands competition. Their group also included BYU School of music graduate Mitch Romney and BYU student Jane Beeson.



Photo courtesy of The Daily Herald



## DAVID KIME

David Kime, double major in piano and organ, was invited to be one of four undergraduate students in the nation to participate in a conducting masterclass at the 2023 National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association, held on February 23 in Cincinnati, Ohio. David will have the opportunity to conduct a collegiate demonstration choir, and be tutored by one of four luminaries of the choral profession: Joe Miller, André Thomas, Felicia Barber, and Elizabeth Schauer.

# IN MEMORY OF...

## Ted Wight

"Theodore "Ted" Alton Wight, father and patriarch to a family of over 75 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, passed away surrounded by his family on Thursday, December 29, 2022, from complications resulting from an accidental fall during a nocturnal pursuit of ice cream. He was 90 years old."



"He played flute with the Utah Symphony for eleven years (together with his wife, Marcia, who played viola for the Utah Symphony for three of those years) and for many years thereafter was invited to return to play with the symphony when a larger flute section was required. On one occasion he was invited to return to play with the symphony on a European tour. Ted also taught private flute lessons at Brigham Young University as an adjunct professor of music."

To read his full obituary, click [HERE](#).

# EMPLOYEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## ANDREW CRANE

On November 18 and 19, Dr. Andrew Crane appeared as the guest conductor/clinician at the 2022 South Big Horn Basin District Honor Choir in Riverton, Wyoming.



## WOODSMITH

Alexander and Aubrey Woods released a new music video featuring their arrangement of "The Holy and the Ivy." You can watch it [HERE](#) or click on the image to the left to view.



## JIHEA HONG-PARK

Jiheon Hong-Park, Associate Professor of Piano, recently performed and presented at University of California Los Angeles, University of Southern California, College Music Society's National Conference, and National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors National Conference. She also taught and performed at College of William and Mary (Williamsburg, Virginia) as the artist in residence in early November. Professor Jiheon Hong-Park has been appointed to the Artist Faculty at the Brevard Music Center Summer Institute and Festival. The Summer Institute program is one of the country's elite summer festivals for gifted music students.





## RANDA ALVORD

Alvord won the BYU 2022 Young Professional Advisor of the Year Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize and reward new- to mid-level advisors who have demonstrated exceptional skill and potential in their academic advising. This award highlights individuals who show promise in their advising career through their contributions to their college/department and their students.

## SHAWN SMITH

Professor Smith traveled to Valencia, Spain, to work with the students of the Conservatori Ciutat de Moncada from December 12 to 14. The rehearsals and the Management Masterclass were both open to the public.



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# ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## RAKOZY AND MURRAY

J. Scott Rakozy and Peter Murray, graduates from the Commercial Music division, wrote the music for the game Hogwarts Legacy. Listen to them and others talk about the process [HERE](#).



# IN MEMORY OF...

## David Dalton

"David Johnson Dalton passed away December 23rd, , 2022 from natural causes. He was born January 18,1934 in Springville, Utah, the son of Oliver H. Dalton, a cattleman and farmer, and Jessie J. Dalton, a woman of the arts. Dalton's professorial career was associated for 35 years with Brigham Young University. He greatly enlarged the viola program and was a founder and longtime member of the Deseret Quartet. He performed as well as a soloist and often in duo with his wife, Donna, a soprano."

"Dr. Dalton was elected president of the American Viola Society, for which he was editor of its professional journal for 15 years and was later elected president of the International Viola Society (IVS), which bestowed on him its highest honor, the "Golden Viola Clef." That was only the second time in its 50-year history that the IVS had given such an award." To read his full obituary, click [HERE](#).



# SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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**NEW** social media platforms. Stay  
in the loop and never miss an  
event!



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# Thank you for considering a gift to the School of Music.

We recognize that donated funds are precious and sacred. We strive to use these funds appropriately by carefully determine the strategic priorities for the college which are approved by BYU's President's Council and the Board of Trustees.

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