Getting Out of Our Comfort Zones

Delivering his 20th Westminster Opening Convocation address, Westminster Choir College Dean and Director Robert Annis recalled speeches that involved props ranging from coffee cans to Barbie dolls and performances that included his first public improvisation.

“More than once over the years I’ve stepped out of my comfort zone, despite the warmth and nurturing that we all feel on this occasion,” he said. “Convocation gives us a chance to come together as a community—a community whose life and breath are centered on the making of music.”

He referred to former Westminster Dean Charles Schisler’s dissertation on the history of Westminster Choir College that described Westminster’s curriculum as combining “the philosophies of rational humanism and cognitive pluralism to emphasize the technical competence and musical sensitivity of student musicians while fostering their understanding of the liberal arts and the role of music in intellectual and cultural life.”

“So let’s assume for the moment that this concept is our comfort zone,” Annis continued. “With that in mind—the question is—how do our community values and traditions stay relevant in the 21st century, because our comfort zone can easily become its own bubble or silo. As musicians we know firsthand that a sensational performance today does not guarantee a sensational performance again tomorrow. For an organization or school, this translates into the fact that a successful past does not guarantee a secure future of continued glory. To remain vital, we must function as an energized and interactive entity meeting tomorrow’s needs. We must learn from our past, but we also must look ahead. As we all go through this journey, I ask you to challenge yourself to grow and venture outside of your comfort zone.”

“Give the world community what it needs,” he said to the students. “You can make the arts a lifeblood part of your community. Embrace and rejoice in the journey Westminster offers to you.”

He also encouraged the faculty to “think innovatively, embracing what we hold true to the musical training and life experiences found at Westminster.”

Campus Construction Moves Ahead

CULLEN CENTER

Construction on the new academic building, the Marion Buckelew Cullen Center and the Hillman Performance Hall, began in August. Dry weather during much of September and October allowed the construction crew to make significant progress, which included excavating the area, installing all of the foundation and beginning the exterior walls. Conduits for high-voltage electrical lines are being installed to support upgraded technology that will enable Westminster to connect and collaborate in real time with students and other institutions around the globe.

THE PLAYHOUSE

Fundraising continues for the renovation of The Playhouse to create a versatile space that will be
Westminster Alumni Council Welcomes New Members

At the May 2013 Westminster Alumni Association meeting five alumni were elected to serve on the Alumni Council. Here are brief profiles about each of them.

JONATHAN SLAWSON ’09
BM in Music Education
Minors: Arts Administration and American Studies
District 2—Metropolitan New York Region
Jonathan Slawson holds a Bachelor of Music from Westminster Choir College (2009 WCC President Award recipient), and a master’s degree in Nonprofit Management from The New School. He currently manages the Notables program—young donors in their 20s and 30s—at Carnegie Hall. Prior to that, he held positions in development at Lincoln Center, Blair Academy and the League of American Orchestras. In addition to his responsibilities at Carnegie Hall, Jonathan maintains a portfolio of freelance projects for such programs as Athlete Ally, the Ocean City Pops, The Equus Projects/OnSite NYC and others. Additionally, he is a concert reviewer for the American Record Guide.

ELIZABETH BEWIE ’02
BM in Music Education
District 5—Northeastern NJ: Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union Counties
Elizabeth Bewie is currently the sixth-grade chorus director and general music teacher at Millburn Middle School in Millburn, N.J. She has taught for 11 years in three states: New Jersey, Ohio and Florida. In addition to receiving her bachelor’s degree from Westminster, Elizabeth was awarded a master’s degree in Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and she has completed coursework toward her doctorate at the University of Florida. After years of teaching and serving as a church musician away from New Jersey, she is elated to be teaching middle school chorus and living close to her alma mater again!

LAURIE EISENBROWN BISCHOF ’90
BM in Music Education
District 7—Southern New Jersey: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem Counties
Laurie Eisenbrown Bischof has had a strong connection to Westminster Choir College, not only as an alumna, but also as a former administrator, having served as resident director from 1993 to 1999. Laurie is a music educator who has proudly taught at the elementary level for the past 23 years. She holds an additional certification in general elementary education and an Orff Level 1 certificate from Central Connecticut State University. She has presented workshops on integrating technology in the music classroom, and she has participated in mentorship programs for new teachers. In addition to music education responsibilities, Laurie is passionately involved in teacher advocacy. As communications chair, Laurie developed and executed an outreach plan that serves over 470 teachers in her district. Laurie is a member of ACDA and a recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award.

SUSAN BOS ORGAIN ’93
BM in Church Music
District 9—Coastal Southern States: NC, SC, TN, KY
Since graduating from Westminster Choir College, Susan Bos Orgain has served in two loving churches. At First Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem she worked with Roger Hicks ’63. During her six years there she played the organ, accompanied the choirs, directed two adult handbell ensembles, one youth handbell ensemble, and a volunteer chamber orchestra. She has been at Knollwood Baptist Church since 2000. In addition to playing the organ and accompanying the choirs, Susan has expanded the handbell program from two ensembles to five ensembles ranging in age from second-grade children to adults. She also created and developed a one-week summer music and arts camp for children, where she continues to be the artistic and administrative director. In the Winston-Salem community, Susan was the accompanist for the Piedmont Chamber Singers, a presenter of Pipe Organ Youth Encounters for local elementary schools and a past dean of the American Guild of Organists.

KATHARIN RUNDUS MM’78
MM in Church Music
District 14—West Coast: AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, UT and WA
A singer, voice teacher and choral conductor, Katharin Rundus is the director of Vocal Studies at Fullerton College. She is heard frequently as a recitalist and a concert and chamber soloist in Southern California. She has been an invited lecturer in vocal

continued on page 4
Three Recordings Reflect Westminster’s Heritage and Future

Westminster continues to offer audiophiles many listening options. Most are available at Amazon.com and iTunes.

THE HEART’S REFLECTION: MUSIC OF DANIEL ELDER

A winner of the prestigious Abbey Road Studios Anthem Competition, Daniel and his music have garnered accolades from some of today’s leading choral composers. Eric Whitacre has praised his “extraordinary talent,” and Simon Carrington has described his work as “a breath of fresh air.”

National Medal of the Arts recipient Morten Lauridsen has said of the recording: “This new recording of his works, excellently sung by the acclaimed Westminster Choir conducted by Maestro Joe Miller, showcases a wide variety of Elder’s work on a diverse collection of texts, each displaying his deft craftsmanship and imaginative text setting.”

“One of the hallmarks of the Westminster Choir is to promote new American choral works,” says Joe Miller. “The burgeoning development of the choral art in the United States has begun to stimulate the imagination of composers adept at giving voice to new and exciting choral repertoire. Daniel’s music sparked my imagination, and I knew the Westminster Choir would express its deep connection with joy and passion. These compositions have a way of striking the heart of the listener, and audiences have responded with enthusiasm when we sing Daniel’s music in concert.”

FAVORITE HYMNS & ANTHEMS
Released in 1990 on the Gothic label, this reissue on the Westminster Choir College label features the Westminster Choir, conducted by Joseph Flummerfelt, performing well-known hymns and anthems by Thompson, Vaughan-Williams, Mendelssohn, Howells and Thomson. It also includes Lord Make Me an Instrument by David Stanley York MM’46. Organists are Joan Hult Lippincott ’57 and former Sacred Music Chair Ronald Arnatt. One Amazon purchaser wrote about the recording, “This CD brings back so many good memories. Absolutely wonderful. Best CD ever.”

ANNELIES
Released on the Naxos label, this world-premiere recording of the chamber version of James Whitbourn’s Annelies, the first major choral setting of The Diary of Anne Frank, continues to garner critical praise. It features the Westminster Williamson Voices, soprano Arianna Zukerman, the Lincoln Trio and clarinetist Bharat Chandra conducted by James Jordan. BBC Magazine gave the recording five stars, and Gramophone described it as “exhilarating” and praised the ensemble’s singing “with a precision and finesse normally found in the best of the U.K.’s large chamber choirs.”
used for classes and rehearsals, student activities, and opera productions. It will include improving acoustics, installing dressing rooms, and expanding the stage by 10 feet. As of mid-November, over $400,000 has been raised toward the total renovation cost of $1.69 million.

To learn more about The Playhouse Renovation and how you can invest in this momentous project, please contact Kate Wadley ’02 at 609-921-7100 ext. 8213 or kwadley@rider.edu.

You can follow the progress of the Westminster campus construction projects at www.rider.edu/wcc/building.

An Evening of Readings & Carols Broadcast

The 2013 An Evening of Readings & Carols performance will be broadcast on WWFM The Classical Network on Monday, December 23, at 8 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 25, at 4 p.m. Listen on the radio if you live in the WWFM broadcast area. Or you can listen online at www.wwfm.org. The broadcast will also be archived on the WWFM website so you’ll be able to listen any time following the broadcast dates.

Comfort Zones continued from page 1

Westminster. But think creatively and entrepreneurially to evolve, enhance, and mold a curriculum and performance experience that is vital and relevant to the artistic and educational development of our 21st century young musicians.”

Read a transcript of Robert Annis’ 2013 Opening Convocation address on the Westminster website at www.rider.edu/annis.

Council Members continued from page 2

pedagogy at many universities. She has been an ACDA clinician and lecturer about vocal pedagogy and voice science. Her book on vocal pedagogy, Cantabile, is widely used in college and university music departments in the United States. She is the co-dean of Summer Sing, an annual singer’s conference at Lake Tahoe now in its 22nd year. Katharin received her Bachelor of Music from Coe College, Master of Music from Westminster Choir College and Doctor of Musical Arts from Claremont Graduate University.
Alumni Association Honors Three Notable Graduates

At the 2013 Alumni Reunion Luncheon three Westminster alumni were recognized for their professional achievements.

Ron Melrose MM’90 was honored for his commitment to service through music and success as a composer, arranger and musical director. Ron has spent the last 31 years in New York City, honoring twin commitments to the theater and the church. Currently he is musical director, vocal arranger and incidental music composer for the Tony-Award winning musical Jersey Boys. His other Broadway credits include music direction for Sinatra at Radio City, Imaginary Friends and The Scarlet Pimpernel; dance or vocal arranging for Sweet Smell of Success, Jekyll & Hyde, The Act, Woman of the Year and Cabaret; and conducting for Smile, Annie and The Rink. His church music experience includes a 10-year music directorship at All Angels’ Episcopal Church in New York, where he formed and directed a gospel choir from the homeless community served by the church.

Jane Shaulis ‘66 was recognized for her inspiring career and commitment to the vocal art. On the roster of the Metropolitan Opera since 1991, Jane has appeared in more than 550 performances. Before joining the Met, she was associated with the New York City Opera for 13 years, appearing in more than 60 roles. She can be heard on recordings of Manon Lescaut and I Lombardi for Sony Classics and Rigoletto for Deutsche Grammophon—all conducted by James Levine. Her PBS Live from the Met appearances include The Ghosts of Versailles, Elektra, La Forza del Destino, Arabella and I Lombardi. She has also performed with the opera companies of Chicago, San Diego, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Kansas City and Milwaukee; and she has been a guest artist with the orchestras of Chicago, Philadelphia, Syracuse and Savannah.

John Walker ’73 was recognized for enriching the cultural lives of millions worldwide through his work in television. Senior producer in music programming at Public Television’s Thirteen/ WNET, John has been nominated for five Emmy Awards and received two for broadcasts of La Traviata from Paris and John Adams’ opera Nixon in China. For 28 years he has written and produced the annual From Vienna: The New Year’s Celebration, as well as every Carnegie Hall Opening Night, for television. He has produced countless broadcasts for the renowned Great Performances series ranging from Respect Yourself: The Stax Records Story and The Rodgers & Hart Story: Thou Swell, Thou Witty to Thomas Hampson: I Hear America Singing and The New York Philharmonic Live From North Korea.

Stay Connected

Want to keep up with Westminster news between issues of Symphonic? Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Westminster students are also blogging about several programs. Here’s where you can find us:

- www.facebook.com/westminster
- www.twitter.com/WestminsterChoirColl
- www.instagram.com/westminsterchoircollege
- westminsterchoir.wordpress.com
- westminstervoice.wordpress.com
- choralmusicinstituteoxford.wordpress.com
Steven Spooner Invites Audiences to Choose

Pianist Steven Spooner’s one-day residency in October came with a different twist. After leading a master class with Westminster’s piano students, Spooner presented a recital that invited the audience to vote on the repertoire he should perform.

He offered six options that ranged from sonatas by Haydn and Mozart to works by Chopin and Liszt and his own arrangements of popular works, such as Amazing Grace and Queen’s We are the Champions. The vote resulted in a three-way tie among Liszt, Chopin and his “favorites” program, so he compromised and performed a mixture of the three with a Mozart encore.

Passionately devoted to solo recital, Spooner has performed in such prestigious venues as the Salle Cortot in Paris, Holland’s Vredenburg Centre, Budapest’s Great Hall of the Liszt Academy, New York’s Carnegie Hall, Rome’s Santa Cecilia and Singapore’s Esplanade. In addition to his residency at Westminster, he has served as guest artist-in-residence at Paris Conservatory Summer Sessions, and he has served on the artist faculty of the Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy, the International Institute for Young Musicians, Musicfest Perugia, the Adam Gyorgy Castle Academy in Budapest and the JCoM Fest in Jakarta. He is increasingly in demand for his humorous, engaging and energetic master classes at major music institutions around the world. Spooner currently serves on the piano faculty at the University of Kansas and specializes in workshops and lectures on fingering, aspects of style, and a variety of performance and pedagogical topics.

Westminster Schola Cantorum 2014 Concert Tour

Westminster Schola Cantorum and conductor James Jordan will travel to Virginia and North Carolina in March. Learn more at www.rider.edu/scholacantorum.

Saturday, March 15
Trinity Episcopal Church
Upperville, VA

Sunday, March 16
St. James Episcopal Church
Richmond, VA

Monday, March 17
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
Durham, NC
Alumni host: Cyril (Randy) Murphy ’09

Summer Program Expands to the U.K.

Westminster’s Office of Continuing Education offered a new program in the United Kingdom this past summer. Presented in partnership with St. Stephen’s House, one of the halls of Oxford University, the Choral Music Institute at Oxford provided instruction to all levels of conductors within a fully residential Oxford college. The 2013 faculty included James Jordan, James Whitbourn and Edward Higginbottom, Oxford University’s Professor of Choral Music, as well as Westminster faculty members Frank Abrahams and Steve Pilkington.

“The partnership between St. Stephen’s House, Oxford and Westminster Choir College brings a fusion of riches and combines tradition and innovation in a fresh and extraordinary way,” says James Whitbourn. Participants were expected to come to the Institute fully prepared on the selected repertoire. This allowed the program to focus upon artistry and the individual artistic growth of each conductor. All conductors studied in daily group sessions with James Jordan, James Whitbourn and the Westminster Williamson Voices, which served as the ensemble-in-residence for the program.

Watch the Westminster website for information about the 2014 Choral Music Institute at Oxford program.
Westminster Choir to Tour Oklahoma and Texas

The Westminster Choir and Joe Miller will travel to Oklahoma and Texas in January to present a series of concerts and high school workshops. This year’s tour program, which is titled “Legends,” is centered on Ériks Esenvalds’ dramatic Legend of the Walled-Up Woman. Through dramatic staging and repertoire, the choir tells the story of the woman at the center of this ancient legend. The program will include three compositions from its new recording, The Heart’s Reflection: Music of Daniel Elder, as well as Johannes Brahms’ Nänie and Maurice Duruflé’s Ubi Caritas.

Please share the tour schedule with anyone who would enjoy attending a performance. The Office of Alumni Affairs will host receptions after the concerts in Dallas and Austin. Details are in the tour schedule below.

Be sure to stop by the recordings table to say hello and receive a Choir College memento.

Listen to a podcast of Joe Miller previewing the tour program or check on tour updates at www.rider.edu/westminsterchoir.

Westminster-to-Go Podcasts Offer Musical Insights

What painting inspired Morten Lauridsen’s O Magnum Mysterium? How does Tarik O’Regan approach writing for the voice? Which composition does Simon Carrington use as a tool to teach communication among the members of a choral ensemble?

You’ll find the answers to these questions—and much more—in the Westminster-to-Go podcast series, which features in-depth conversations with many of artists who have visited the Westminster campus over the past seven years and several faculty members.

Recent programs in the series include a preview of the Westminster Choir’s 2014 tour and interviews with Richard Bjella, director of choral studies at Texas Tech; conductor Charlene Archibeque; and André Thomas, director of choral activities at Florida State University.

Subscribe to Westminster-to-Go for free through iTunes or RSS feed. Or listen to individual programs on the web at www.rider.edu/westminstertogo.
Commencement 2013

Westminster Choir College of Rider University awarded bachelor’s and master’s degrees to 135 students at the College’s 84th Commencement in May.

Opera singer Paul Plishka delivered the Commencement address. The Westminster Symphonic Choir has collaborated with Dr. Plishka several times, including a performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at the gala opening of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, which was broadcast on PBS’ Great Performances.

“You should be very proud of your achievement today, but don’t forget those who helped make it possible,” he said. “Be sure to make them proud of their part in your success, and be sure that you become the ‘air under someone else’s wings.’” An honorary Doctor of Music was awarded to Mr. Plishka in recognition of his long and successful career with the Metropolitan Opera and other leading opera companies throughout the world.

Professor James Jordan delivered the Charge to the Graduating Classes, urging the graduates to “remember this community...remember what it felt like in the good times to be together and to make music with one another.”

others
Westminster Reunion 2013

The weather was picture perfect for the Westminster alumni who returned to campus in May to reconnect with classmates and friends and to celebrate a milestone in the Choir College’s history: the ceremonial ground breaking for the new Marion Buckelew Cullen Center and Hillman Performance Hall.

Behind ceremonial shovels are (from left): Campaign Committee member Aaron Gast, Campaign Committee member and Rider University Trustee Mickey Lazenby Gast ’68, retiring Alumni Council President and Rider University Trustee Jaimie Gilhooley Flack ’77, Rider University Trustee Mark DeMareo ’78, Rider University Trustee Stacy Shapiro, Rider University Trustee Chair Gary Shapiro, Rider University President Mordechai Rozanski, Westminster Choir College Dean Robert Annis, and Campaign Committee member Joseph Beck ’59.

At the Alumni Chapel Service, Rodney Brown ’68 delivered the homily, which centered on the story of Vedran, the cellist of Sarajevo.

The All-Alumni Reception included a celebration of Helen Hubbert Kemp’s ’41 95th birthday. Helen Kemp was surrounded by well wishers after everyone sang Happy Birthday with the usual Westminster flair.

The Class of ’68 shared 45 years of memories during a dinner in the Fisk Room. Pictured (from left) are seated: Ruth Anderson and husband William Payn, Linda and John Gamble. Standing: Aaron Gast, Bruce Campbell, Mickey Lazenby Gast, Michael Stairs, Steve Carpenter and his wife Betty, Elizabeth Hall Harmon and her husband, Damon.

The Golden Encore Luncheon, attended by alumni celebrating their 50th Reunion and beyond, was a great opportunity to capture special moments on a smartphone.

James White ’72 shared a score with Shannon Aloise ’11 at the Hymn Festival.
A Spoleto USA Festival Celebration

Westminster alumni and friends gathered in Charleston, S.C. in June to attend the Westminster Choir’s performances and to honor Joseph Flummerfelt as he retired from his position as the festival’s artistic director for choral activities. In addition to their choral performances, members of the Westminster Choir participated in opera performances: Toshio Hosokawa’s *Matsukaze* and Umberto Giordano’s *Mese Mariano*, which was paired with Giacomo Puccini’s *Le Villi*.

More than 150 alumni attended Dr. Flummerfelt’s final performance of Verdi’s *Requiem*, which was followed by an elegant reception where there were lots of smiles and tears. The evening came to an emotional conclusion when Andrew Megill MM’90 began conducting the guests singing the Lutkin Benediction and stepped away as Maestro Flummerfelt led the final “amens.”

Levi Hernandez MM’99 was Guglielmo in the festival’s production of Puccini’s *Le Villi* and Jennifer Check ’97 was the soprano soloist for the Verdi *Requiem*.

Class Notes

‘62
Gini Baxter Stone and Marilyn Aiello Franz had the great privilege of visiting with Bob and Jean Simpson in their home in Tucker, Ga. They had great fun reminiscing about the Class of ’62 and talking about their years at Westminster Choir College. Bob will be celebrating his 90th birthday in January.

To receive Bob Simpson’s contact information, please email wccinfo@rider.edu or call 609-891-7100 ext. 8307.

‘69
After 17 years as organist and music director, Ken and Sharon DeBoer will retire from full-time music work at Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C. For nearly two decades at the church, they performed and taught music, as well as helping facilitate handbell concerts and mentoring young organists. The DeBoers met in the 1960s on a college tour for freshmen at Westminster Choir College.

‘73
Martha Regelmann is the organist and choir director at Trinity Episcopal Church in Roslyn, N.Y. Recently she performed in a concert celebrating graduates in the congregation and active members of the church.

‘74
Metropolitan Opera tenor Michael Sylvester performed a recital in the University of Toledo’s Center for Performing Arts to help kick off its second

The Power of One
A singer, performer and voice teacher in New York City, Renee Heitman ’03 believes that one small act of kindness can grow to make a difference in people’s lives and in communities. She’s making that happen in her Astoria neighborhood through Single Girl Cookies, a project she started earlier this year.

Every week Renee takes a batch of her special homemade chocolate chip cookies to a different neighborhood business. She delivers them on a real plate and tells the recipient she’ll return in a few days to pick up the plate, and when she does, she asks the recipient to suggest the business that deserves the next batch.

“There’s no catch, I don’t want anything from this, just the satisfaction of making people happy,” she said. “It makes me happy to bake and give, and my cookies, in turn, make people happy. I like the idea of using a real plate that says, I’ll be back and you’re not disposable. It’s my small way of investing in this beautiful neighborhood and telling people, ‘Hey, you’re worth it.’ I like to patronize the business when I do come back, and it introduces me to places I’ve been meaning to try but haven’t gotten around to yet. The project also has another layer of community building by making one business recommend another. It’s great walking into a place and saying, The guys over at [_______] sent me here and thought you deserved these. So in a way, the project isn’t really mine, I’m just the vehicle for people to perform acts of kindness.”

Renee’s Single Girl Cookies project has been featured on New York’s ABC News and the Huffington Post. In October she presented her project as part of a TEDxUtica event, “Dream. Develop. Deliver,” which showcased individuals from across central New York and beyond, with ideas or missions that are worth sharing.

When she’s not baking cookies, Renee is teaching voice at Turtle Bay Music School in New York and singing as the soprano section leader at Christ Episcopal Church. To learn more about Renee and her Single Girl Cookies project, go to www.singlegirlcookies.com.
annual Art Song Festival. The program celebrated German, Italian and American music, featuring compositions by Robert Schumann, Giancarlo Menotti, Norman Dello Joio and Steven Mark Kolm.

'87 and '90
The Stubbs Family Singers, composed of Kerry Stubbs, Betsy Mackenzie-Stubbs, and their family, performed at the Dorothy E. Henry Branch of the Sussex County Library in Vernon, N.J. Kerry is a voice teacher in the Elizabeth public school system, and Betsy is a member of the faculty at Kean University and Caldwell College. They maintain a private vocal studio.

'96
Baritone David Ruhf has been a member of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem since 2001. He recently performed in the 106th annual Bethlehem Bach Festival on May 5, 2013 which featured the choir. The program included works by Beethoven and Lauridsen. David is also the author of the Bach Choir Blog, in which he recently interviewed Morten Lauridsen about his composition Lux Aeterna.

CORRECTION
We incorrectly spelled the name of Megan Larson Gardner’s husband in the last issue of Symphonic. Here is a corrected version of her news:

Megan Larson ’10 married Peter Gardner of Spokane, Wash. Peter is a 2006 graduate of Multnomah University with a B.S. in Speech Communication and Theology and has a master’s in teaching from Whitworth University.

‘10
Dr. Trey Davis has been selected as the director of the Cantabile Choir, the most advanced choir within the Platteville Children’s Choir Program in southwestern Wisconsin. The mission of the Platteville Children’s Choir is “Developing the whole child through the choral music process.”

Have a Class Note to Share?
Do you have news you’d like to share with the Westminster community in the next issue of Symphonic? Please send it to wccinfo@rider.edu or Office of External Affairs, Westminster Choir College, 101 Walnut Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Save the Date
Westminster Reunions
May 15–17, 2014

Be sure to check the website in January for a full list of events at alumni.rider.edu.

If you’re celebrating a milestone reunion and graduated in a year ending with a 4 or 9 and want to volunteer, please contact Natalie M. Pollard ’93, ’98, director of alumni relations, at 609-896-5340 or at pollardn@rider.edu.
In Memoriam

Hubert V. Taylor ’38 passed away on June 2, 2013.


Jean Thompson Cronk ’43 passed away on July 20, 2013.

Sue Merriam Fiser ’44 passed away on June 24, 2013.

Alice Kline Smyk ’47 passed away on August 14, 2013.

W. Ernest Wells ’49 passed away on January 1, 2013.

Mary Fisher Scott ’49 passed away on January 2, 2013.

Anne Williamson Bulls ’49 passed away on March 17, 2013.

Betty Hoffine Ash ’49 passed away on August 3, 2013.

James P. Crone ’50 passed away on January 1, 2013.

Alice Ruth McConaughy Hartbarger ’50 passed away on March 31, 2013.

Nelson Larrabee ’50 passed away on October 12, 2013.

Frances Martin McKee ’51 passed away on August 29, 2013.

Lorena Young Linhares ’52 passed away on April 26, 2013.

Jean Nauman Savage ’53 passed away on October 17, 2013.

Arthur Bayer ’54, MM’57 passed away on September 7, 2013.

Eleanor String Dunn ’55 passed away on January 4, 2013.

Ruth M. Harris ’55 passed away on April 7, 2013.

Carmen Graziano ’55, MM’58 passed away on April 25, 2013.


Donald R. Mathis ’56 passed away on October 27, 2013.

David A. Wehr ’56, ’57 passed away on May 9, 2013.


James M. Marshall ’60 passed away on March 5, 2013.

Nancy Fitzgerald Smith ’61 passed away on April 4, 2013.

Linda Lanier-Keosaian ’64 passed away on January 28, 2013.


Kasson E. Crooker ’65 passed away on February 7, 2013.

Garyth Nair ’65 passed away on August 10, 2013.

Catherine Fowler Payn ’68 passed away on September 19, 2013.

Mary Dempsey Wescott ’69, MM’82 passed away on June 11, 2013.

Diana Whittier Reichstetter ’71 passed away on June 13, 2013.

Roger W. Lakins ’74 passed away in May 2013.

Carol Luckert Garlow ’75 passed away on April 21, 2013.

Betty J. MacQueen ’76 passed away on April 20, 2013.

Philip D. Johnson ’77 passed away on September 13, 2013.

Cassandra Young McGahie ’80 passed away on January 11, 2013.


Susan Cramer Schlegel ’87 passed away on March 7, 2013.

James G. Kantor ’89, MM’91 passed away on January 23, 2013.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

As graduates of Westminster Choir College of Rider University, we share a common experience, and we have been entrusted with a valuable legacy. As we continue to benefit from the efforts, accomplishments, and investment of those who came before us, we open our hearts and minds to embrace the exciting things that lie ahead. From Arturo Toscanini and Bruno Walter to Leonard Bernstein, from Zubin Mehta and Kurt Masur to Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the world’s great conductors continue to recognize the world-class quality of our choirs.

In his Convocation address to students this fall, Dean Robert Annis reminded us that, “A successful past does not guarantee a secure future of continued glory. To remain vital we must function as an energized and interactive entity meeting tomorrow’s needs. We must learn from our past, but we also must look ahead. The world is changing very fast—cultural and religious changes, global economic challenges, and the seemingly precarious state of the arts. How do we build on the past, embracing the old, and claiming the new?”

Your continued participation, and the contribution of your talents and expertise, will help us answer that question. We need your creative input, and we invite you to help us continue to build on our rich heritage by staying connected, and by giving back.

The Alumni Council and the Office of Alumni Relations are dedicated to establishing and nurturing lifelong relationships between the college and its alumni, in an effort to not only strengthen our musical community, but to also assist in the development of the full potential of the Alumni Council. Our desire is to ensure that our legacy will continue to thrive for generations to come, and we welcome your involvement and participation. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions about opportunities for future participation, please contact Natalie Pollard, director of alumni relations, at pollardn@rider.edu.

Sincerely,

Constance Fee ’71
Alumni Council President

Why Give to

The Westminster Scholarship Fund?

Your generosity…

• directly supports every aspect of College life.
• provides scholarships, campus enhancements and support for new academic programs.
• underwrites travel expenses for recording sessions, tours and concert run-outs.

For assistance in connecting with alumni and/or making a gift to THE WESTMINSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND, contact Liza Calisesi MM’12 at 609-921-7100, ext. 8216 or by email at lcalisesi@rider.edu. To make a contribution online, please visit: alumni.rider.edu/wccgive.

YOUNG ALUMNI: Stay tuned for upcoming young alumni networking and fundraising events. If you are interested in being a member of the Westminster Young Alumni Committee, please contact Liza Calisesi MM’12 (see above).

STAY CONNECTED: Find The Westminster Fund on Facebook and Instagram.
Westminster Offers New Graduate Degree in Public Musicology

Westminster Choir College is accepting applications for a new Master of Music in U.S. and Public Musicology. Designed to prepare students for careers both inside and outside of academia, it is the first graduate program of its kind in North America. Students enrolled in the program will take traditional musicology courses and also work with education directors at performing arts centers and museums, digital music archivists, music journalists, oral historians, and musicologists involved in K–12 education.

Public musicology is an emerging and exciting discipline that explores how musicological research can be interesting and relevant to general audiences. It involves applying knowledge gained from the established fields of public history and public science to music. Public musicologists use diverse strategies to connect music to other aspects of life, and their activities include:

- Writing for general audiences in print and web publications
- Developing digital and print archives for researchers
- Planning events that connect music to important socio-political issues, such as the environment
- Conducting oral histories
- Curating museum exhibits
- Designing curriculum that enable K-12 teachers to incorporate music into history, English, foreign language and social science teaching
- Planning educational programs for adults and teenagers

To learn more about this program, contact the Office of Admissions at 800-962-4647 or email wccadmission@rider.edu.
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Adult Programs
Summer Choral Festival
Conducting (programs for all ability levels)
Study Abroad (Oxford, Florence, Vienna)
AP Music Theory
Choral and Vocal Pedagogy
The CoOPERative Program
Kodály

Alumni receive a $100 discount on domestic adult programs register by March 1, 2014

Middle and High School Programs
Vocal Institute
Music Theatre
Piano
Composition
Music Theory
Organ
Solo Vocal