



PRISM

Newsletter September 2014 Volume 37

Fall 2014 Performance Season Highlights

Just now, our stages are empty and the rehearsal rooms are quiet. There are even available parking spaces! But in just a few days, Varner Hall will once again be filled with (dare we say it?) the sound of music, and more. Please join us and be a part of the Music, Theatre and Dance community by attending many of our fall season performances. As department chair Jackie Wiggins said, "Our students grow in their performance skills because of your presence and support."

Not all our recitals feature student work. We have guest performers whose presence, both on stage and in master classes, provides our students with exceptional musical advantages and we invite you to share those experiences. This fall, we are proud to showcase the very finest in chamber music. On October 12, the Juilliard String Quartet will play in Varner Recital Hall.

[Read more.](#)



The Juilliard Quartet

Come Home to Music, Theatre and Dance

This fall, we would like to invite all our alumni to return for a very special OU Homecoming! The University is starting a new tradition, moving Homecoming and Reunion Weekend to the fall -- this year on September 19 - 21, 2014. Alumni, their family and friends are all invited back to campus for a truly memorable weekend with an array of activities and events.

Music, Theatre and Dance is contributing to the celebration of all things OU with an event we're calling Black and Gold, a performing arts extravaganza, on September 20th, 2014, starting at 7:30 pm. We will meet at the base of the new Elliott Carillon Tower, right in the heart of campus. Our music, theatre, and dance students will perform a diverse program ending in Varner Recital Hall. At the end of the performance, we invite you to join us for an alumni dessert reception. If you plan to be at the reception, please let us know you are coming. Call (248) 370-2030 or email Muriel at mader@oakland.edu.

[Read more.](#)



The Elliott Carillon Tower

Catching up with More California Alums

From sea to shining sea, part of the shimmer is the gold of OU alumni. There are music, theatre and dance alumni on both the east and west coasts, and at many points in between. In the past we've brought you "catch up" stories of some of our California-based alums. Most of them were performers who had paid their dues over a number of years and found a way to "make it work" in a tough and competitive market. Read on for news about some very recent grads who are working hard and are determined to find their place in the show business dazzle of the Golden State.

Taylor Thompson (B.F.A. '13), a dancer and **Joshua Kelly** (B.A. '13), an actor, drove across country to begin a life together in the early summer of 2013 -- twice. Josh explains, "The first trip across the country was a lot of fun, [we] got an apartment the first day out there, then had to fly back to get the other car. The second time wasn't that fun."

[Read more.](#)



Joshua Kelly

Upcoming Events

Thursday, 9/11
OU String, Wind & Guitar
Faculty Collaborative

Friday, 9/12
Miles Brown's Middle Game

Sunday, 9/14
Kenneth Kroesche,
euphonium

Saturday, 9/20
Black and Gold

Saturday, 9/27
Guitar Workshop

Thursday, 10/2
Jeffrey Heisler
Saxophone

Sunday, 10/5
Oakland Symphony
Orchestra

Tuesday, 10/7
OU Chamber Orchestra

Thursday, 10/9
OU Jazz Band with
Joe Magnarelli

Thursday, 10/9 -
Sunday, 10/19
The Life

Sunday, 10/12
Juilliard String Quartet
with Aeolus String Quartet

Saturday, 10/18 &
Sunday, 10/19
Eisenhower Dance in
On the Move

Wednesday, 10/22
OU Bands Preview

Friday, 10/24
Saxophone Studio Recital

September News

Contact Us



We should call this issue of our news round-up, "What I did this summer."

Two of our piano students, **Joshua Kolpak** and **Karen Li**, received a \$500 award from the Oakland University Sharp Scholarship program for Study Abroad. The James A. Sharp and Tessie Baltrip Sharp Scholarship Award program recognizes the tremendous academic and career benefits of learning about other cultures. Both Joshua and Karen are piano performance majors but Joshua, who traveled to Spain, is also minoring in Spanish, while Karen, who spent time in Argentina, has a second major in linguistics. Joshua writes, "There was not an official music component to my studies, but I did have regular access to a piano in the heart of Segovia. It was in an apartment that overlooked the town cathedral." Karen's main focus was on studying Spanish language and culture, however, she worked on two music related projects during her time in South America.

[Read more.](#)



Joshua Kolpak & friends



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Music, Theatre and Dance

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