



July 2015 | Volume 42



Regina Carter

Working In The Arts: Alumni News

"Sometimes people forget that you can make a decent living being a musician. You might not be a millionaire, but you'll be happy. And by playing music, you'll make other people happy." So said OU alumna and world-renowned jazz violinist **Regina Carter** when interviewed by Paul Freeman of the *San Jose Mercury News*, before her recent concert at Stanford.

OU Music, Theatre and Dance welcomes all students to benefit from the enrichment provided by our arts classes, but our primary focus is on preparing our majors for their professional careers, whether it be in education or, like Regina, in performance. Our goal is to transform students' passion into creative and professional expertise. Here is some recent alumni news that shows just how well-equipped our graduates are with the tools, technique and understandings they need to thrive in their chosen fields.

[Read more.](#)



Professor Michael A. Mitchell

Michael A. Mitchell: A Life In Music

According to his own account, **Dr. Michael A. Mitchell**, professor of music and director of OU's choral activities, is a very lucky man. Throughout his life, *good fortune has shined down on him*; he has been *in the right place at the right time*; and he has had many *an incredible stroke of luck*. Anyone who knows Dr. Mitchell also knows that this is very far from the whole story of his success, but in the one area in which we have no control over our own destiny, the family into which we are born, Dr. Mitchell was undoubtedly lucky.

His parents, **Gary and Joan Mitchell**, always nurtured and supported his musical interests and ambitions. Mike's first musical memories are of singing with his mother, who was a theatre major in college. "I sang always, ever. I sang as long as I can remember. I sat in my mother's lap and sang before I could talk. When I was a kid we listened to records all day and sang songs . . . all sorts of little children's songs and folk songs, and whatever she was a fan of at the time. Dylan, Joni Mitchell. I can distinctly remember that I loved singing along with the soundtrack to the musical *Oklahoma!*"

[Read more.](#)



Theatre students on the Greek island of Hydra

July News

Our theatre students have left for their study abroad, Classical Theatre in Greece. Watch out for their travel photos which we are posting to Facebook, and when the fall semester starts, join us in Varner Studio Theatre to see *Iphigenia*, based on Euripides' *Iphigenia at Aulis*, in a new version by **Karen Sheridan**. Performances will be from September 11 to September 13.

Meanwhile, our dance students are recently returned from their study abroad trip to Berlin. We hope you saw some of their photos on our [Facebook page](#). If not, you can catch them in our [Dancers in Berlin](#) album. The climax of their trip was a performance at the Uferstudios for Contemporary Dance, which was covered by TV.Berlin for the program Berlin Tanzt. Polish off your German and see interviews with our students and faculty, as well as glimpses of the performance, in [this YouTube clip](#). (Starting at 7:50.) And you can see some of those dances at the OU dance program's annual fall concert from December 3 to December 5.

[Read more.](#)

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Upcoming Events

We're working
on our website.
Our online calendar
should be fully updated
by late August.

FEED
9/4 - 9/6/2015

OU Jazz Band @ The Detroit Jazz Festival
9/5/2015

Iphigenia
9/11 - 9/13/2015

Alta Dantzler,
faculty voice recital
9/12/2015

against the sunset...
9/18/2015

Black and Gold
9/19/2015

Angela Cheng
Chamber Music Society
of Detroit at OU
9/20/2015

Jeffrey Heisler, faculty
saxophone recital
9/23/2015

Pat & Emilia
9/25/2015

Oakland Symphony Orchestra
10/4/2015

OU Chamber Orchestra
10/6/2015

Oklahoma!
10/8 -10/18/2015

Our Season 2015-2016 Performance Brochure will be available in late August. A Z-mag publication of the brochure will be available on the [Music, Theatre and Dance homepage](#). Or you can ask to be added to the mailing list.

