

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

School of Music, Theatre and Dance



FEBRUARY 2018 – Volume 57

News and updates from the School of Music, Theatre and Dance

Information on upcoming performances on the [SMTD homepage](#)

**Don't miss out on updates from Music, Theatre and
Dance!**

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Working in the Arts: SMTD Alumni News, February 2018

Joe Santoni, who earned a BA in music from Oakland University, landed the role of a lifetime when he was chosen to be part of the original cast of Disney's *D Cappella*, a new Pentatonix-style touring performance experience from Deke Sharon, the arranger for all three Pitch Perfect movies and creative director Jim Milan.

Built around seven vocal ranges — soprano, mezzo, alto, tenor, baritone, bass and vocal percussion — the concerts will feature new arrangements of Disney favorites. "Landing a gig as awesome as this has been nothing short of magical," Santoni said. "Words can't describe how honored I am to be part of such an amazing opportunity. It still blows my mind that I can say I'm recording Disney music for my job and preparing to perform all over the country. Dreams do come true, and my inner child is ecstatic!"

[Read more](#)

Music, Theatre and Dance News: February 2018



This has been a tremendous year with many changes here at the School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Many of those changes happened in the administrative office, and we would like to acknowledge our admiration and gratitude of those that are coming and going.

Over the summer, Recruitment Coordinator **Deneen Stapleton** left OU after 15 years of service. If you were ever here for a workshop, honors ensemble or an audition day, chances are you met her! In September, SMTD Communications Associate **Gillian Ellis** announced her retirement. Gill was the founder of the Prism Newsletter and spent the past seven years faithfully and beautifully presenting the news from music, theatre and dance. In January, Administrative Secretary **Muriel Mader** retired after 27 years at Oakland University, four in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and nearly 23 in SMTD. Muriel was given a surprise *Muriel at Noon* performance to celebrate her time at OU, featuring skits and performances by faculty and students. Please join us in wishing them all the best!

[Read more](#)

'Plateau' performance brings dancers' words to life at OU



The Oakland University Repertory Dance Company will present *Plateau* on March 23-24 in the atrium of the Engineering Center on the campus of Oakland University. The piece, choreographed by Associate Professor of Dance Thayer Jonutz, features musical accompaniment by the OU guitar studio, as well as poetry from theatre student Mickey Mcglinnen.

"Ever since the Engineering Center was built and I walked into the atrium for the first time, I dreamed of putting on a dance concert there," said Jonutz, who is also the director of the OU Repertory Dance Company. "I didn't know what it would look like, when it would happen or how it would happen, but I knew I wanted to do it."

[Read more](#)

Our Season 17-18 Brochure is available on our website

Looking for an older story? Search the OU news archive.

Oakland University
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