



Wednesday, April 10, 2002

## Matilda Awards presented April 15

Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance is hosting the third annual Matilda Awards Monday, April 15, at the San Marino Club in Troy. The awards honor the contributions made by students, alumni and community members to the department.

The awards to be presented include:

- Distinguished Musicianship Award — Heather Yanke (Berkely)
- Meadow Brook Estate Award — Heather Yanke (Berkely)
- Outstanding Student in Piano Performance — Kevin Nadolski (Sterling Heights)
- Outstanding Student in Voice Performance — Jacquelyn Wagner (Bloomfield Hills)
- Outstanding Students in Music Education — Renee Sadowski (Clinton Township) and Benjamin Baldwin (Lake Orion)
- Outstanding Student in Instrumental Performance — Sarah Miller (Royal Oak)
- Outstanding Student in Composition — Christopher Holt (Troy)
- Outstanding Student in Musical Theatre — Joey Bybee (Lapeer)
- Gittlen Achievement Award in Theatre — Travis Walter (Traverse City)
- Gittlen Theatre Award — Joshua Polley (Clarkston)
- Jacob Decker Dance Award — Kristen Berger (Sterling Heights)
- Maggie Allesee Dance Award — Jennifer Miller (Washington, MI)
- Outstanding Student Service Awards — Caroline Cates (Rochester Hills) and Holly Lloyd (Davisburg)
- Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Music — Catherine Rollin (Bloomfield Hills)
- Alumni Arts Achievement Awards in Theatre — Lisa Jesswein (Royal Oak)
- Special Award for Contributions to Dance — Carol Halsted (Bloomfield Hills)
- Distinguished Community Service Award — Stanley Hollingsworth (Auburn Hills)

In addition to these esteemed awards, students present their own tongue in cheek awards called The Golden Screw Awards, which will be presented by senior, Cassandra Svacha.

The event begins at 6 p.m. and includes dinner, the award presentations, performances by the recipients and dancing. Tickets are \$20 for OU students and \$30 for OU employees and the general public. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling (248) 370-2032.

### Distinguished Musicianship Award and Meadow Brook Estate Award

Heather Yanke(Berkely) is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Musicianship Award as well as the Meadow Brook Estate Award. She is a senior studying vocal performance with a minor in theatre. This past year, Yanke was Mrs. Ryan in the original cast of "Hey There, Good Times!" at Oakland; a member of OperaLite at Greenfield Village; in the OU Jazz Band, performing an original work at the Composer's Forum; and sang at many churches in the area as a featured soloist. She can be seen as Dame Doleful in the Michigan premiere of "Too Many Sopranos" at Oakland in May.

Her favorite roles include "Rock and Roll Lysistrata" and "Amahl and the Night Visitors," for which she was nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Award. She has performed with both the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony and the Warren Symphony and has sung back-up at the Palace for Sarah Brightman.

Yanke is a winner of the 2000-2001 Young Artists Concerto Competition and the 1998 Oakland University Spirit Award.

### Outstanding Student in Piano Performance

Kevin Nadolski (Sterling Heights) is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Student in Piano Performance. He began taking piano lessons at the age of 5 and started teaching piano at the age of 13.

Nadolski stopped taking lessons between the ages of 16-18 to pursue a hockey career. During those three years, he came to realize how much he truly loves music. He began taking music classes and private lessons at Macomb Community College at the age of 19, when he realized that is what he wanted to do with his life.

After spending a year at Macomb, he auditioned and came to Oakland University where he has been on the Dean's List, a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and a recipient of the 2000-2001 Matilda Award in Piano Performance. He also recently was awarded a competitive scholarship from the Detroit Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, an international professional music fraternity.

### **Outstanding Student in Voice Performance**

Jacquelyn Wagner (Bloomfield Hills) is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Student in Voice Performance. She is a junior vocal performance major at Oakland University and has been studying voice with Edith Diggory for 7 years.

In 1999, Wagner graduated from Southfield Christian High School after becoming Michigan's top high school vocal student in her senior year. She has won several other competitions, such as the Elizabeth Gardner competition, Madrigal Choral of Southfield, Jenny Lind Scholarship and was the winner of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Mozart competition in 2002.

In addition to competing, Wagner has played Casilda in "The Gondoliers" and Harrison's mother in "Harrison Loved His Umbrella" all performed through Oakland University's Music Department. During the summer of 2001, she went to Spoleto, Italy, to study in the Spoleto Arts Symposium.

### **Outstanding Students in Music Education**

Renee Sadowski (Clinton Township) and Benjamin Baldwin (Lake Orion) are this year's recipients of the Outstanding Students in Music Education Award.

Sadowski is a student teacher at Hart Middle School in Rochester where she teaches sixth, seventh and eighth grade choirs. She is a member of the Oakland University Chorale, with which she has toured throughout the Midwest, and is a member and section leader of the Oakland University Chorus.

Sadowski will graduate from Oakland with academic honors in May with bachelor of music in vocal and choral music education. She has received a vocal scholarship from Oakland for four years.

Sadowski is an active member of the Oakland University Collegiate Chapter of the Music Educators National Conference and the Knox Evangelical Presbyterian Church choir where she has assisted in sectionals. She graduated from Chippewa Valley High School in 1998 and was a three year member of the MSVMA Michigan State Honors Choir, with which she soloed her senior year.

Benjamin S. Baldwin (Lake Orion) is a senior instrumental music education major. After graduating from Lutheran High North in 1993, he began his four-year enlistment in the United States Marine Corps Band. He was selected to play lead trombone in the Armed Forces Honors Jazz Band during his stay at the Combined Armed Forces School of Music. He served three years in the Marine Logistics Base Band. During his stay at MCLB Albany, he performed 75-100 events annually including such performances as the closing ceremonies for the 1996 summer games, the inauguration ceremony of Georgia Governor Zell Miller and a Joint Chiefs of Staff conference in 1995.

Baldwin was awarded the National Defense Medal, two Meritorious Unit Commendation Medals and the Good Conduct Medal during his service in the Marines. After his honorable discharge in 1997, he began his studies at Oakland University.

In 1998, Baldwin accepted a position at Henry Ford II High School as the assistant band director. In 1997, his jazz band was chosen among 12 high schools in the state of Michigan to perform at the Detroit Montreux Jazz festival. He was inducted into the Golden Key National Honor Society in 2000 and was presented the Matilda Award for instrumental performance in 2001.

### **Outstanding Student in Instrumental Performance**

Sarah Miller (Royal Oak) is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Student in Instrumental Performance Award. She is a music education major and her primary instrument is bassoon.

Miller has participated in the Oakland University Symphonic band for four years, the Pontiac Oakland Symphony for three years and just recently sat in third bassoon for the Warren Symphony. She also participated in a woodwind quintet her freshman and sophomore years, performed Stravinsky's Octet last year with other symphonic band members, and was in the University Chorus her sophomore year.

Miller is pleased to have been asked by her church to conduct cantatas for the past two years at Christmas and Easter. She most enjoys playing on the Composer's Forum, where she is able to play new music by her peers and work with her composing peers to have their piece played live and performed for others. She is looking forward to performing Chris Holt's original composition at the ceremony, "Kiss the Chef."

### **Outstanding Student in Composition**

Christopher Holt (Troy) is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Student in Composition Award. He not only studies with Karl Boelter, he is a stunt double as well. Holt has six works premiering this semester, which include: "The Belle Isle Squonk," "Dead

Clown Enters Heaven," "Kiss the Chef" and "Drogi, On the Trees and Raise the Roof!"

Holt recently completed his first piece for the concert band, "Love Conquers All Killer Robots." He plans to study in Vienna during fall 2002 and will present a full recital of his works next year.

#### **Outstanding Student in Musical Theatre**

Joey Bybee (Lapeer) is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Student in Musical Theatre Award. He graduates this year from OU with a bachelor of arts in musical theatre.

One of his favorite roles is the boy who never grew up from "The Life of Joey Bybee," later the role was revisited in "Peter Pan," and a young man with a passion for women, swords and climbing on anything he can find in "The Man, The Myth, The Monkey." The previous roles were revisited, respectively, in "Cabaret," and "Romeo and Juliet."

He has been nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Award for nearly every role he has played and will appear in Meadow Brook Theatre's upcoming production of "Godspell."

#### **Gittlen Achievement Award in Theatre**

Travis Walter (Traverse City) is this year's recipient of the Gittlen Achievement Award in Theatre. He is graduating this year with a degree in theatre performance.

Walter was last seen in "And Neither Have I Wings to Fly" and received an Irene Ryan nomination for his performance. He has been a part of many other productions at OU including "Romeo and Juliet," "Cabaret," "You Can't Take it With You," "The Monkey's Paw," "The Wind in the Willows," "Translations," "Gypsy," "Death and the King's Horseman," for which he was nominated for the American College Theatre Festival's Irene Ryan Award; "Albert's Bridge," "Triffles," "A Chorus Line," "Othello," and "W.A.S.P."

Walter stage managed "Just So Stories" last year and directed the student one-act "Sorry, Wrong Number." His most exciting accomplishment, however, is conceiving and directing the first student directed musical at OU this year, "Hey There, Good Times," which is a tribute to Cy Coleman.

#### **Gittlen Theatre Award**

Joshua Polley (Clarkston) is this year's recipient of the Gittlen Theatre Award. He is a senior completing his second year as a theatre production major.

Polley began to study theatre in the fall of last year after transferring to Oakland from the University of Mississippi where he was majoring in managerial finance. He simply figured it would be a nice change from the business world, and maybe, just maybe, he would be able to get his name in a program. He remembers thinking "How difficult could this be? I had absolutely no idea what I was getting myself into."

Since then, he has helped construct almost every show at Oakland, been master electrician, master carpenter, assistant technical director, assistant scenic designer, stage manager for "Romeo and Juliet" and recently completed his first set design for "Table Manners," which can be seen in the Varner Lab Theatre on April 19 and 20.

Polley is employed in Oakland's Scene Shop and currently is working on the upcoming opera, "Too Many Soprano's." He also is the technical director and coordinator for the Furniture Factory in downtown Detroit. He plans to intern this summer at Chicago's famed Steppenwolf Theatre.

#### **Jacob Decker Dance Award**

Kristen Berger (Sterling Heights) is this year's recipient of the Jacob Decker Dance Award. She is a returning student to the dance program having danced previously at Oakland from 1990-1992. During that time, she was a member of the Meadow Brook Estate.

After directing Aspirations Dance Company in Jackson and teaching ballet, modern, jazz and tap for several years, she returned to school to receive her bachelor of science in nursing degree and worked as a nurse for three years. She then decided to complete her B. A. P. A. in dance degree and return to the dance world.

Berger has been in the past and is currently a member of Oakland Dance Theatre and Oakland Dance Theatre Repertory Company. Over the years, she has choreographed for many community theatre productions and high school show choirs. She also is the assistant director and member of Center Dance Ensemble, a pre-professional dance company of Eisenhower Dance Ensemble at the EDE Center for Dance.

#### **Maggie Allesee Dance Award**

Jennifer Miller (Washington, MI) is this year's recipient of the Maggie Allesee Dance Award.

Miller has dedicated her life to dance whether it be on a stage or in the classroom. She has won numerous awards for Scottish Highland dancing including five regional championship and two national championship titles. She also has toured with the professional Celtic show, Fire and Grace.

At Oakland University, Miller has been a part of the Oakland Dance Theatre for four years and a part of the OU Repertory Dance Company for the past two years. She also was a member of the Oakland University Dance Team. She spends her time away from Oakland teaching others the art of dance, all over the Detroit metro area.

### **Outstanding Student Service Awards**

Caroline Cates (Rochester Hills) and Holly Lloyd (Davisburg) are this year's recipients of the Outstanding Student Service Awards.

Cates is a music education major who transferred to Oakland in 1998. Since that time, she has been the principal trumpet of the symphonic band and has participated in the Jazz ensemble, Pontiac Oakland Symphony, and numerous pit ensembles for departmental musicals and operas. Beginning in the fall of 1999, Caroline has worked as band librarian as well as equipment manager for both the symphonic band and Pontiac Oakland Symphony.

Lloyd is a junior at Oakland University majoring in theatre production. She has been the lighting designer for both the 2002 theatrical production of "And Neither Have I Wings to Fly" and the popular performance ensemble, Meadow Brook Estate.

### **Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Music**

Catherine Rollin (Bloomfield Hills) is this year's recipient of the Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Music. She is a noted composer who combines her performing career with teaching students. She has traveled to more than 50 cities in the United States and Canada to present workshops.

Rollin received a bachelor of musical arts degree with distinction from the University of Michigan and a master of music degree from Oakland University School of Performing Arts. Her work as a composer has won her many distinctions. Among these, Rollin has been commissioned by Clavier Magazine and the Michigan Music Teachers Association. Several of her compositions have been selected for the National Federation of Music Club's Junior Festival Bulletin. Rollin has served as a judge on the national level for the MTNA Student Composition Competition and as a member of the prestigious panel of judges for the Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Contest. She has been a featured soloist with numerous orchestras and is an active chamber musician in the Detroit Area.

In recognition of her teaching ability, the Detroit Musicians League voted her Teacher of the Year in 1987. Rollin is state and nationally certified by the Michigan Music Teachers Association and the Music Teachers National Association. Her private students have won numerous statewide, regional and national awards.

### **Alumni Arts Achievement Awards in Theatre**

Lisa Jesswein (Royal Oak) is this year's recipient of the Alumni Arts Achievement in Theatre Award. She is an honored Oakland University graduate (BA '89) who has been involved in the metro Detroit area entertainment industry for the past 10 years.

Jesswein has been the female character voice talent on "The Dick Purtan Morning Show" for the past nine and a half years. Presently, you can hear her goofy antics on Oldies 104.3 WOMC where she also reports on Detroit area entertainment during her Friday Weekend Update segment.

When not on the radio, Jesswein keeps busy with industrial films, voice over work, corporate comedy events, teaching children's theatre or spreading her inspirational and motivational message to various organizations. She also is a two-time kidney transplant recipient who started her own speaking business seven years ago.

### **Special Award for Contributions to Dance**

Carol Halsted (Bloomfield Hills) is being honored with a special award for her contributions to dance. She has been on the faculty at Oakland for 30 years and is the past chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. She plans to retire as professor of dance at Oakland University in August.

Halsted received her Ed.D at Wayne State University. She currently serves as dance coordinator for the Detroit Opera House, chair of the Dance Council at the Detroit Opera House and serves on the Board of the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble.

Her choreographic venues have included Other Things and Company as director and choreographer, the Oakland Dance Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre and the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble. Currently she is exhibiting the Carol Halsted Dance Photography Collections universities and museums across the country and has written a catalog, "The Power and Passion of Dance," which accompanies the exhibit.

She has been president of the American College Dance Festival Association, editor of the "Detroit Dance News," and grant reviewer for the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. She is a recipient of the Michigan Dance Teacher of the Year

Award, Oakland University Faculty Recognition Award and Wayne State Alumni Arts Achievement Award.

### **Distinguished Community Service Award**

Stanley Hollingsworth (Auburn Hills) is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Community Service Award. He is a professor emeritus of Oakland University and held the post of composer in residence during his tenure here.

Hollingsworth credits his principle teachers in composition as Darius Milhaud of Mills College and Gian Carlo Menotti of the Curtis Institute of Music. His principal works include "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra," "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra," and "Divertimento for Orchestra," which was premiered by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Opera and chamber works include "The Mother;" "The Selfish Giant;" "Harrison Loved His Umbrella," which was produced by Oakland University in the 2000-2001 season; and "La Grande Breteche," which was commissioned by the NBC Opera Theatre and premiered in a nation-wide telecast.

Hollingsworth has served as resident composer for Wolf Trap, Yaddo, MacDowell Colony, Montalvo Center and Ossiba Island Project. He has received many honors and awards, including the Fellow of American Academy in Rome (Prix de Rome), Guffenheim Fellowship, Rockefeller Grant (Bellagio, Italy), Harkness Foundation, two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and two grants from the Michigan Council for the Arts. In addition to his vast musical accomplishments, he has generously provided opportunities over the years for many students at Oakland to study their craft in Europe.

#### **SUMMARY**

Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance is hosting the third annual Matilda Awards Monday, April 15, at the San Marino Club in Troy. The awards honor the contributions made by students, alumni and community members to the department.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Article Start Date: Monday, November 10, 2003