

In our last newsletter we told you about our honorable mention in a list of the country's ten best dance schools. We hate to brag (not really!) but ONSTAGE blog just named our theatre program **one of the ten most underrated in the Midwest**. Actually, we know a lot of people who already rate us very highly, but we're delighted to have anyone help spread the word. Thanks ONSTAGE.

Students:

So, time for that classic fall question, "What did you do this summer?" We bet no one on campus has a more impressive answer than the Oakland University Chorale who sang back-up for the Rolling Stones at Comerica Park. Their faces were projected onto huge screens and that footage was shown on local television the next day. They earned much praise from audience and reviewers, but most importantly, they won the approval of **Mick Jagger**. After their afternoon rehearsal he pronounced the choir, "excellent," and as director **Mike Mitchell** told Rochester Patch in a phone interview, "To hear that from Mick Jagger was pretty cool."

Lending their voices to "You Can't Always Get What You Want" were **Michaela Judkins, Regan Tackett, Claire Toupin, Elise Eden, Allison Vernon, Kelsey Altman, Kelsey Millerschin, Annika Ey, Christine Divito, Hayley Raska, Olivia Demmers, Sydnee Moss, Chris Brody, Collin Kuss, Tim Brown, Robert Skylis, Conner Matteson, Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi, Alexander Walker, Noah Cherry, Jake Surzyn, Mark Hosseini, Rhys Burgess and Caleb Balk**. In addition to Dr. Mitchell, graduate assistant **Matt Kush** also conducted. You can read **Mike's excellent Patch interview here**. And you can see a snippet of their performance in this **clip from Channel 7 Morning News**.



The Oakland University Chorale at Comerica Park



(l-r) Gabe Jameson, Jake Daley, Marissa Pattullo, Pablo Calzada, Bobby Brooks, Kamryn Zorn, Maria Reed, Emily Haddick, Margaret Hinckley, Shannon Kraemer, Briana Fogleman, Emily Christensen, McKayla Kreimedes, Karen Sheridan,

Meanwhile, fourteen theatre students are back from an amazing adventure. They took part in the Classical Theatre Study in Greece program which included rehearsing and performing Euripides' *Iphigenia*, in a new version by **Professor Karen Sheridan**. **Associate Professor Ke Knox** and **Assistant Professor Jeremy Barnett** design the costumes and scenery and contributed to the course. The play will be restaged in Varner Studio Theatre, with performances on September 11, 12, and 13. Theatre students also studied in Greece in 2011 and 2013, and the opportunity to do so will be offered again in the summer of 2017. For more information about studying abroad in Greece you can visit the **OU International Education website here**. And you can read much more about the "Grizzlies Gone Greek" in this **Oakland Post article by Kaylee Kean and Susan Til**

As you've probably heard, TEDx is returning to OU, this time with Oakland County as a partner. The public is welcome to the October 23 event, which will highlight ideas that "celebrate innovation and provoke the imagination," and you wonder why we especially want to tell you about this because we are proud that our dancers feature prominently

Several of our theatre students and alums appeared in the Water Works Theatre Company's Shakespeare in the Park series in Royal Oak's Starr Jaycee Park this summer. **Andrew Barik**, **Chrisjon Hubert**, **Sarah McEneaney**, **Callie Smith** and **Joshua Steckelberg** were all cast in *All's Well That Ends Well*; and **Kir Alley**, **Tim Falk**, **Anna Marck** and **Luciana Piazza** were cast in *As You Like It*. If you didn't make it this year, perhaps you should on adding a Shakespeare in the Park show to your summer schedule next year. With the sunset streaming through the trees, it's almost magical experience.

Meanwhile in the biggest of big cities, **Lily Talevsky** and **Mitch Aiello** made the most of their time in New York preparing for the Carner and Gregor Barely Legal Showtune Extravaganza. They performed to a sold out/standing room only crowd at (le)



Lily Talevsky in rehearsal in New York

Poisson Rouge, and afterwards Lily wrote on her Facebook page, "After a week masterclasses with Broadway music directors, casting directors, playwrights, professional actor panels, special guests, . . . I'm confident with who I am and what I'm doing with my life. Thank you for the hospitality, kindness, trust and love to Carner and Gregor, our wonderful director, loving producers, phenomenal special guests, amazing host, and UNREAL band. Anyway, New York, you've been good to me. I'll be back soon."

Doctoral student **Jocelyn Zelasko** sang at the historic Hull House last month in a performance arranged for the Society for the Study of Social Problems, who gathered in Chicago in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. She performed a program of songs composed by Eleanor Smith, who was director of the Hull-House Music School from 1893 to 1935. The songs were intended to give expression to the



Jocelyn Zelasko at Hull House, accompanied by Amanda Sabelha

need for social justice and inspire solidarity with the laboring classes.

Despite their beauty, in the intervening years they have been largely forgotten. **Associate Professor Jessica Payette** gave opening remarks that addressed the challenges women composers faced in the early twentieth century, which were drawn from an article she co-wrote with **Graham Cassano**, a member of OU's sociology department. We expect to bring this event to campus in the fall this season.

Faculty:

On August 26 **Professor Emeritus David Daniels** stopped by the office with a copy of the newly published fifth edition of his book *Orchestral Music: A Handbook*, which is an essential reference work for conductors, musicians and musicologists around the world. He was here to leave a signed copy as a gift for **Associate Professor Greg Cunningham**.

Karen Sheridan, professor of theatre, spent much of August in Wisconsin directing *Nunsense* at the Peninsula Players, which is one of America's oldest resident summer theatres. The company is celebrating their 80th year! **Associate Professor of Dance Greg Patterson** is choreographing the show. *Nunsense* will run from September 9 to October 18. [More information here](#). Karen will be back on campus for the start of classes and for the final remount rehearsal of her new version of

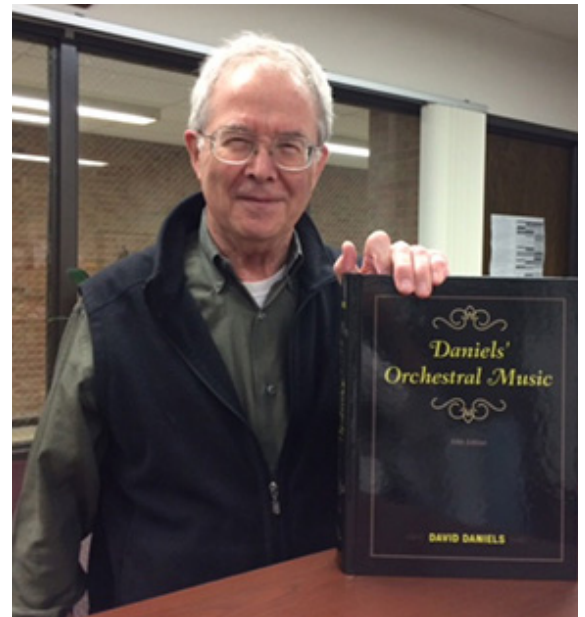
Greg Patterson is also the lead organizer of the annual "Michigan Five" event at the Berman Center in West Bloomfield. Every year the performance celebrates the outstanding dancers of Michigan's colleges and universities, directed by the world's finest choreographers. [More information here.](#)

Take Root, one of our dance companies-in-residence, has had a very busy summer. Co-directors **Associate Professor Thayer Jonutz** and **Assistant Professor Ali Woerner** were featured in the Detroit Dance City Festival Choreographers Showcase in July, and the company was one of the first to be selected for the New Dance for Asia International Festival in South Korea in August, where they gave performances in both Seoul and Incheon. Company members and dance alumni **Andrew Dettloff** and **Vivian Costello** made the journey to Korea with Ali and Thayer. [See more on NDA's Facebook page.](#)

On September 1, the company was featured in the PBS special *Dance On Detroit! Episode 2* – "The Art of the Dance." You can find more [information about the production of the show here](#). If you missed seeing the show live you can [catch up here](#). In the fall, Take Root is continuing their community outreach with their Dance for Parkinson's classes; the next session starts on September 12. Email takerootdance@gmail.com for more information.

Ali and Thayer are presenting at **TEDxOU** on October 23. Their topic will be how they use dance to connect with people, discussing their work with K-12 students, Parkinson's Disease patients, and how Take Root the company connects with its audience. They will finish with a performance of one of their pieces. Keep up with TR's schedule [on their website](#).

Our other dance company-in-residence, **Eisenhower Dance**, was also part of the Detroit Dance City Festival Choreographers Showcase in July and "The Art of the Dance" television special on September 1. Artistic Director and OU **Professor Emerita La Eisenhower** is one of the Midwest's leading figures in contemporary dance. This season the company is celebrating its 25th anniversary, a wonderful achievement and one of special significance for our dance program, since so many students and alumni have benefited from internships and apprenticeships with them. We invite you to join ED and Laurie as they launch their celebration by joining us in Varner for one of their two ON THE MOVE performances, on October 24 or 25. See you there!



David Daniels and the fifth edition of his book