



Tuesday, April 8, 2003

MTD students honored at Matilda Awards

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** (MTD) shone a spotlight on some of its most talented students and alumni at the fourth annual Matilda Awards April 7 at the San Marino Club in Troy.

The Matilda Awards honor the achievements and contributions of MTD students, alumni and friends of the university. The awards are named for OU founder Matilda Wilson, who, with her second husband Alfred, helped establish performing arts as one of the cornerstones of the university.

Senior Jacquelyn Wagner, a vocal performance major studying opera, won the Distinguished Musicianship Award, the department's top honor. Wagner has won many recent competitions including the Meadow Brook Music Festival Scholarship, Elizabeth Gardner competition, Madrigal Choral of Southfield, Jenny Lind Scholarship and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Mozart competition.

In his award presentation remarks, Professor of Music John Paul White noted that Wagner is one of the most sought-after opera students in the country by graduate schools.

"Jacquelyn has the ability to take what was once music in the composer's mind, heart and soul and turn it into a beautiful performance. No one does that better," White said. "She has made me cry and laugh. The only thing she has never made me feel is nothing."

Of the 19 awards, two were new this year. Senior music major Joseph Augugliaro won the inaugural Outstanding Student in Jazz Award. Senior music major Sarah Baldrige, graduate student in piano pedagogy Yevgenya Derian, and doctoral candidate Alex Ruthmann won the first Chamber Music Award.

Three OU alumni also were recognized with awards:

Colleen Jennings-Roggensack, who received a B.A. in education in 1975, was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the National Council for the Arts and is now ambassador for the arts for the council, received the Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Dance.

Joel Frederiksen, who received a master's degree in early music in 1990, has made many international appearances in opera, oratorio and concert and has numerous compact disc recordings, received the Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Music.

John Roman, who graduated with a degree in speech and communications in 1978, was active in Barn Theatre productions at OU, and is now producer of NBC's "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," received the Alumni Awards Achievement in Theatre. Roman was not present to accept his award but did send his appreciation through a video recorded on the set of "Criminal Intent."

Students also had an opportunity to perform at the ceremony. Baldrige, Derian and Ruthmann delivered a chamber music performance; Mary Bischoff and Angela Repp performed a dance to a Billie Holliday recording; Heather Yanke and Wagner each delivered vocal performances; Robert Benton and Jacqueline Bess performed a musical piece on euphonium and piano, respectively; and Catherine Lutz and Blair Mellow depicted a scene from a stage play. Frederiksen, who recently formed the Ensemble Phoenix in Munich, Germany, represented alumni performers by accompanying himself on the lute while singing two compositions.

The Distinguished Community Service Award went to Doris Travis, whose generous gift established the Doris and Paul Travis Professor Program, the largest of its kind in OU's College of Arts and Sciences.

The complete list of 2003 Matilda Award honorees includes:

- Distinguished Musicianship Award – Jacquelyn Wagner

- Outstanding Student in Piano Performance – Kevin Nadolski
- Outstanding Student in Voice Performance – Heather Yanke
 - Outstanding Student in Music Education – Jonathan Lunneberg
 - Outstanding Student in Instrumental Performance – Robert Benton
 - Outstanding Student in Composition – Ryan McKee
 - Outstanding Student in Jazz – Joseph Augugliaro
 - Chamber Music Award – Sarah Baldrige, Alex Ruthmann and Yevgenya Derian
 - Jennifer Scott Award – Jacqueline Bess
 - The Patrick and Mercedes Nicosia Meadow Brook Estate Award – Heather Yanke
 - Gittlen Achievement Award – Cindy Lim
 - Gittlen Theatre Award – Catherine Lutz
 - Jacob Decker Dance Award – Mary Bischoff
 - Maggie Allesee Dance Award – Angela Repp
 - Outstanding Student Service Award – Trish Shandor and Heidi Marie Brown
 - Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Music – Joel Fredericksen
 - Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Theatre – John Roman
 - Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Dance – Colleen Jennings-Roggensack
 - Distinguished Community Service Award – Doris Travis

For more information on academic programs, faculty, ensembles, productions and performances, visit the **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** Web site.

SUMMARY

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