

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011

President's Message

(Note: The following message is an edited version of a speech presented at the CMS South Central Chapter Business Meeting on March 4, 2011).

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to have been elected chapter president and I look forward to working with all of you. I thank you for your support. Those of you who attended our fun and successful 2011 Chapter Conference at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock will recall that, in addition to our intriguing conference sessions, we engaged in pointed dialogues concerning the numerous challenges that we face today in higher education.

In 1996, Open Court Press published a book entitled *Generation X Goes to College* by Peter Sacks a west coast community college instructor. Sacks's fundamental thesis was that there was a both a clash of cultures and a clash of ethics between earlier generations and the generation that came of age in the mid 1990's. In a larger framework he described it as



Daniel Adams

South Central Chapter President

a clash between the modern and post-modern worlds. The subsequent generation, often referred to, as "millenials" are perhaps the first true "digital natives", texting and twittering their way through their so far, relatively sheltered lives.

Fifteen years later, some of the more astute members of Generation X are entering the professoriate as our junior colleagues, and I extend to them my most sincere welcome. Like all of us, they must meet the pedagogical challenges presented by the millenials, who are well on their way to completing their baccalaureate studies. In many ways our Generation X colleagues are better equipped than senior faculty to meet this challenge. Most of us have felt the frustration of lecturing to a group of students who sit and simultaneously attempt to verify our expertise using their gadgets, while searching for our Facebook profiles. In essence, we face



Traditional Korean music concert at the Traditional Arts Center in Seoul, Korea.



Korean cooking class during the CMS International Conference.



Patricia Surman (Southwestern OK State Univ. and Northeastern OK State Univ.) and Hui-Ting Yang (Troy University) in traditional Korean dress during the CMS International Conference.



FEATURED MEMBER

Name: Francesca Arnone

Hometown: Waco, TX

Alma Maters: Oberlin, San Francisco Conservatory, Univ. of Miami

Current Position: Assistant Prof. of Flute, Baylor University

How I spent my summer: Taught/organized a flute seminar with Jim Walker and Alberto Almarza, taught high school flute camp, moved to TX, went to South Korea

Research Interests: Practice strategies, reflective practice, vocal pedagogy for flute, underperformed repertoire, new music

Favorite food: Yes, please!

Ten word of advice: Connect musically, authentically with someone daily. Be passionate about life.

Members in Traditional Korean Dress at the 2011 CMS International Conference



unprecedented challenges in convincing them to appreciate our academic authority or any aspect of our authority, for that matter, as the constantly expanding information available literally at their fingertips relegates us to mere older persons (not necessarily “elders”) with an opinion; no better or worse than any other opinion.

In an era of value-free knowledge and civility-challenged information overload, how can we, notwithstanding our expertise, oratorical skills, and interpersonal finesse, gain the genuine respect of our youngest students; not just reluctant obedience and phony genuflection displayed for the purpose of grade inflation? Those of us with tenure may have a reasonable amount of job security, but even that is eroding in tough economic times. Tenure may protect our jobs, but it does not guarantee that we will flourish and maintain relevance. That is why we are professionally active in organizations such as CMS. If I could do anything as your president it would be to convince ALL of my colleagues at every career stage to understand the importance of the formal and informal discourse that is such a valuable part of our organization. For those of you in your early career stages, it is crucial to develop your academic profile to attain tenure and promotion. For our mid career colleagues it is crucial to pursue scholarly passions without the impending pressure of the tenure machine. For late career colleagues like me, it is the time to share the products of mature scholarship and to mentor our junior colleagues so that they may avoid some of the pitfalls that

we encountered. In this context we must remember that tenure gives us the opportunity and safety to nurture the professional development of those who will ultimately succeed us and more importantly SUPERCEDE us. If we are not successfully recruiting younger scholars who will ultimately be better than us, then we are not fulfilling our professional obligations. It is easy to lose track of this responsibility as we serve on those tedious search committees that seem to be badges of academic

longevity! However, no other profession (except the federal judiciary!) enjoys the stability of tenure and we must do all that we can to guard it in perpetuity.

Tenure, professional development, mature scholarship, participation in CMS are all essential components of our career profile. Nevertheless, we return to the question of how we, as mature professionals can cultivate respect in an era of accelerated obsolescence, and in the presence of a mindset that dismisses the concept of the so-called "wisdom of elders". A number of years ago, a graduate student about my age approached me and said "Dr. Adams, when I finish all of my degrees, I want to be just like you." Although understandably flattered by this compliment, my response may have been gratuitously cynical: "Diabetes, cancer, depression? And you want to be like me?" Taken aback he hesitated and said: "Maybe not JUST like you."

Perhaps this was a questionable response on my part. Please be assured that I would NOT have responded in this way to a younger student! However, a contemporary, even at an earlier career stage, has to understand that the strength and determination we use to overcome our worst personal obstacles are just as valuable as our academic preparation and accomplishments, especially as we enter the mature stages of our lives. We should not engage in self-pity, nor should we dwell on our personal misfortunes. By virtue of our educational preparation alone we are more fortunate than many.

I am firmly convinced however, that the obstacles we overcome outside of our profession, especially those that threaten one's very existence, require strength, discipline, and determination to overcome. We do not necessarily need to disclose these experiences as I did, in order to draw upon them in our teaching and mentoring. Nevertheless, our gravest experiences instill in us a pedagogical advantage that cannot be supplanted by transient instructional gimmickry. For those of you who have never suffered serious personal conditions, I hope that you do not. But I also hope to assure you, as much as possible that if you do, you have the ability to turn them to your advantage.

Those of us who have faced serious threats to our being have a unique understanding of how important self-discipline can be in all areas of life; especially if we have had to take ownership of the steps toward recovery from chronic or acute life-threatening conditions. Following a tough therapeutic regimen on the road to recovery for example, require focus, determination, and endurance not unlike that required to excel as musicians and scholars. Taking this comparison to heart, we can become stricter and yet more compassionate at the same time. We develop the insight to display empathy to students faced with real problems while at the same time becoming less tolerant of willful underachievement and flimsy excuses. When I was called upon to assist with a student grief counseling session following the suicide of one of their peers, I instantly realized that my degrees and publications were not enough to prepare me to meet this challenge, but my life was. During the session, I realized something else as well. There was no twittering, texting, or cell phone use among the students present.

Through a combination of life-long learning and long-term reflection we truly can mentor in a way that transcends fads, trends, and gadgetry. We can provide something of irreplaceable value to our students and to our younger colleagues. Perhaps a mentee WILL want to be just like you; not in spite of your faults, struggles, and adverse experiences, but BECAUSE of the courage and determination that you demonstrated in overcoming them.

I look forward to a great two years as your president.

Reference:

Peter Sacks, *Generation X Goes to College*, Peru, Illinois: Open Court Press (a division of Carus Publishing), 1996.

South Central Chapter Participation in the CMS 2011 International Conference

by **Daniel Adams**
Chapter President

The South Central Chapter was well represented at the CMS International Conference which was held in the South Korean cities Seoul (July 3-7) and Gyeongju (July 8 -10). In addition to the usual paper presentations, lecture/performances, and concerts, conference participants were treated to a wide array of sightseeing and cultural activities, which included traditional Korean meals, dance and music performances, and visits to important historical sites. Nearly a dozen of our chapter members participated as lecturers, performers, composers, and session chairs.

On Tuesday, July 5 Dr. Alexandra Zacharella, Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Low Brass at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Alexandra Zacharella presented a lecture entitled "The Impact of John Barnes Chance's *Variations on a Korean Folk Song* on the Symphonic Band Repertoire" The presentation explored Chance's compositional use of the Korean Folk Song *Arirang* and the impact of the composition on symphonic band repertoire.

The Tuesday night concert at Ewha University in Seoul opened with Five Haiku by Paul J. Dickinson, performed by Stefanie

C. Dickinson, piano (both from the University of Central Arkansas). The characteristic line structure of haiku is reflected in the form of the pieces—seventeen measures divided into three sections, 5+7+5. On Monday, July 4 Paul and Stefanie presented their "Ear Training Boot Camp" on a morning session. This demonstration reports on an exciting week-long intensive ear -training workshop designed by the presenters and implemented at the University of Central Arkansas in August 2010.

Two other South Central Chapter composers were represented on the Tuesday night concert. *Forest Whispers* by Marty Regan (Texas A&M University—College Station) was performed by the composer on shakuhachi and Jeung-Min Park on cello. "I attempted to seamlessly blend the two instruments in a way that emphasizes their similarities and potential correspondences by means of imitative gestures,

resulting in a soundscape where imagined boundaries between the "East" and "West" become blurred and transcended" commented Regan. On Saturday, July 9 Marty presented a workshop on composing for the shakuhachi in which he provided composers with valuable technical and practical resources to explore the possibilities of the instrument in

AT THE CONFERENCE

Our Korean drumming instructor leads the class in the art of traditional music making.



Patricia Surman, Jessica Campbell, and Cindy Behmer after presenting their papers on the woodwind session in Gyeongju.



**SC Chapter Call for Proposals:
Papers, Posters, Lectures-
Recitals**

Performances

Scores

**Student Papers, Posters,
Lectures-Recitals**

Student Performances

Student Scores

**Submission Deadline: Friday,
Sept. 30 at 12 noon, CST**

See www.music.org for details

their own works. Also included on the Tuesday night concert was Daniel Adams's (Texas Southern University) trio entitled *Intrusions*, one of several recent pieces in which Adams explores the fine line between the symmetrical and asymmetrical aspects of the number three. The performers were Ian Davidson, oboe, Jessica Campbell, bassoon, and Joohyun Lee, piano. Following the concert, Daniel received an invitation from Ewha professor Dr. Park Eun Hye to present a master class to her composition students. On Monday, July 11 after the conclusion of the conference, Daniel met with four graduate and undergraduate Ewha composition majors who

presented scores and recordings of their music and discussed their musical activities and professional goals. Daniel shared several of his recent compositions as well.

The Friday night concert (July 8) in Gyeongju opened with *Mei Votum* (My Prayer) for solo piano by Choi, Da Jeong (University of North Texas) performed by Seung Won Yoo. *Mei Votum* is a single movement, which is toccata-like and features contrasts of register, dynamics, textures, and tempi. *Mei Votum* was followed by Malcolm W. Rector's (University of St. Thomas) *Blitzkrieg* for piano solo, performed by the composer. *Blitzkrieg* is built on three motives, each of which represents an aspect of war.

In addition to Marty Regan, four South Central Chapter members delivered presentations in Gyeongju on Saturday, July 9. Heather MacLaughlin Garbes (The Woodlands, Texas) presented "The Singing Revolution: Peaceful Protest through Song" which included a brief interpretation of song texts that were used during Singing Revolution events as well as footage from Baltic Song Festivals. Patricia J. Surman (Northeastern State University) presented a paper entitled "Ida Gotkovsky's *Eolienne pour flute et harpe*" in Theory and Practice: A Critical Analysis." Patricia provided insight into Gotkovsky's musical expression, her use of symmetrical scales, emphasis on timbre, and formal constructs. "The Melding of Korean and Western Traditions", a lecture-recital presented by Francesca M. Arnone (Baylor University) featured a discussion and comparison of two solo flute

works by South Korean composers Isang Yun (1917–1995) and Younghee Pagh-Paan (b.1945), and concluded with a performance of each piece. Constance L. Kelley (Angelo State University) presented "Unaccompanied Flute Repertoire Influenced by the Japanese Shakuhachi: An Examination of Three Representative 20th century Works" a paper that described basic shakuhachi performance techniques applied to three compositions selected from the modern flute repertoire.

The CMS 2011 International conference was a wonderful opportunity for all participants to share their work and to learn first hand about the fascinating culture of Korea. All of our experiences are summed up in a quote from South Central Chapter participant Alexandra Zacharella:

"The opportunity to hear and experience so much traditional music from Korea was truly a highlight. From the Korea House, drum classes, the various musical performances throughout the sight seeing tours, the private concert in Gyeongju and the last evening's concert, it was tremendous!"



FEATURED STUDENT MEMBER

Name: Reiner Kramer

Hometown: Denton, TX

Alma Mater: University of North Texas, BM and MM in Music Theory

Currently Attending: UNT - PhD in Music Theory

Research Specialty: Theoretical aspects of computer music.

Email patriciasurman@gmail.com to be featured as a member, a student member, or to suggest possible future featured members.

SC CHAPTER JOB NOTICES:

Send an email to patriciasurman@gmail.com with any job notices that you would like to be included in the next newsletter.

University of Texas at San Antonio announces two openings for Fall 2012: <http://music.utsa.edu/index.php/contact/job-opportunities>

South Central Chapter Officers

Daniel C. Adams, President
Texas Southern University Department
of Fine Arts
3100 Cleburne Ave
Houston, TX 77004-5413
(713) 313-7524
(713) 313-1869
Adams_dc@tsu.edu

Dimitar Ninov, Vice President
Texas State University-San Marcos
School of Music
601 University Dr
San Marcos, TX 78666-4616
(512) 245-2651
(512) 245-8181
mitko27@sbcglobal.net

Christopher K. Thompson, Immediate
Past President
Williams Baptist College Department of
Music
PO Box 3664
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476
(870) 759-4160
(870) 886-3924
cthompson@wbcoll.edu

Shannon L. Small, President-Elect
Brazosport College Department of
Music
500 College Dr
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-3136
(979) 230-3321
(979) 230-3465
bestflutistshan@yahoo.com

Stefanie C. Dickinson, Secretary
Univ of Central Arkansas Department
of Music
201 Donaghey Ave
Conway, AR 72035-5001
(501) 450-3242
(501) 450-5773
sdickins@uca.edu

J. Drew Stephen, Treasurer
Univ of Texas-San Antonio Department
of Music
One UTSA Circle

San Antonio, TX 78249
(210) 458-5686
(210) 458-4381
drew.stephen@utsa.edu

Ryan C. Lewis, Musicology
Ouachita Baptist University School of
Fine Arts-Music Div
410 Ouachita St
Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001
(870) 245-5421
(870) 245-5274
Lewisr@obu.edu

Patricia J. Surman, Newsletter Editor
Northeastern State University
Department of Performing Arts
600 N Grand Ave
Tahlequah, OK 74464
(940) 595-6384
(918) 458-2348
patriciasurman@gmail.com

Ruth Morrow, Performance
Midwestern State University
Department of Music
3410 Taft Blvd
Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2095
(940) 397-4789
(940) 397-4511
klaviercat@aol.com

Wendell R. Davis, Performance
Univ of Texas-Pan American
Department of Music
1201 W University Dr
Edinburg, TX 78539-2999
(956) 655-2868
(956) 381-3472
davisw@utpa.edu

Todd A. Goranson, Board Member
2625 Mockingbird St.
Royse City, TX 75189
(972) 635-2981
(903) 468-6010
todd_goranson@tamu-commerce.edu

Mark Brill, Ethnomusicology
Univ of Texas-San Antonio Department
of Music
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249
(210) 458-4381
mark.brill@utsa.edu

Paul J. Dickinson, Composition
Univ of Central Arkansas
Department of Music
201 Donaghey Ave
Conway, AR 72035-5001

(501) 450-3242
(501) 450-5773
pauld@uca.edu

Nico S. Schuler, Music Theory
Texas State University-San Marcos
School of Music
601 University Dr
San Marcos, TX 78666-4616
(512) 245-3395
(512) 245-8181
nico.schuler@txstate.edu

Michael Drapkin, Music Business
Drapkin Inst For Music
Entrepreneurship
12500 Wistful Cove
Austin, TX 78729
(512) 590-2544
michael@drapkininstitute.org

Virginia Wayman Davis, Music Education
Univ of Texas-Pan American
Department of Music
1201 W University Dr
Edinburg, TX 78539-2999
(956) 381-3472
virgdavis@gmail.com

Christine A. Linial, Member at Large
Univ of Texas-San Antonio Department
of Music
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249
(210) 458-4381
lc_amos@yahoo.com

Important Dates

Oct 19-23 CMS National
Conference in Richmond, VA

Sept 30 CMS SC Regional
Conference Proposal
Deadline

March 1-3 CMS SC Regional
Conference in Ada, OK

Dec 2 CMS 2012 National
Conference Proposal
Deadline

Jan 20-21 CMS Summit:
Untapped Collaborations: Synergies
between the Music Products
Industry and the Education of the
Next Generation of Musicians

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Submission deadline: Nov. 15.**