



Summer 2022

UNM Music News

A Newsletter to Alumni & Friends
from
The University of New Mexico
Department of Music

Mexico Masterclasses Project

Dr. José-Luis Hurtado, Associate Professor of Theory and Composition, and *Dr. Michael Walker*, Associate Chair and Associate Professor of French Horn, have been working on a project involving the annual presentation of [Mexico Masterclasses](#), in collaboration with the [Conservatorio de las Rosas](#) in Morelia, Mexico. The plans are that each year, selected UNM music faculty members will travel to Morelia to present a weekend of masterclasses. This year's faculty will include Dr. Hurtado, *Dr. Cárnelo de los Santos*, Professor of Violin, and *Dr. Kevin Vigneau*, Professor of Oboe. The project is open to both undergraduate and graduate students, and will take place August 13-14. Events will include individual lessons, group sessions, a composers' panel discussion, and other activities. This project represents our desire to create a more collaborative relationship with our incredible fellow artists in Mexico and to recruit more international students to study at UNM.

UNM Choir News

Dr. David Edmonds, Director of Choral Studies, reports that the UNM Concert Choir presented the world premiere of Kile Smith's *Where The Mind Is Without Fear* on April 22 in Keller Hall. The work sets a poem by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore from his 1912 collection *Gitanjali (Song Offerings)*. In it, Tagore offers a fervent prayer that his country will awaken to the plight of all peoples and move forward, as he says, "into ever widening thought and action." Grammy-nominated composer Kile Smith has crafted a marvelous work that highlights both the poet's impassioned desire for unrealized dreams and the joyous hope in the potential of his fellow human beings, all which culminates in a thrilling climax on the text, "Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake," words that are just as true today in our own country as they were in Tagore's home country, India, in 1912. The premiere capped off a year for the UNM choirs that included another world premiere as well as a New Mexico premiere, both of works by composer Andrea Clearfield and in collaboration with the UNM Symphony Orchestra. The choir's performance of *Where The Mind Is Without Fear* can be seen on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/a3ZymBLOzN0>



Faculty & Staff Notes

The American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts announced that UNM's *Prof. Olga Perez Flora* is the 2022 winner of The American Prize in Vocal Performance—women in opera (professional division), The Friedrich and Virginia Schor Memorial Award. This prize recognizes the best performances by classically trained vocalists in America, and is based on submitted recordings. Dr. Flora is Assistant Professor of Voice at UNM. She has performed with opera companies and symphonies across the country and internationally and is best known for her sultry *Carmen*, which she has performed numerous times, including her debut with Amarillo Opera. Dr. Flora was recently featured in Michael Ching's *Completing the Picture*, which was recorded and filmed remotely during the pandemic, for Opera Company Middlebury. Other opera roles include Eunice in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Opera Company Middlebury), Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* (Opera Columbus), Third Lady in *Zauberflöte* (Arizona Opera), Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* (Opera in the Heights), and more. Dr. Flora has performed several recitals across the U. S. and in Cuba and Italy. She most recently created a Cuban Song Recital titled *Canciones de mi Isla: Songs from My Island*.



Prof. Carmelo de los Santos, violin, and *Prof. Falko Steinbach*, piano, gave a duo concert tour in Germany March 26-April 8, performing at the Kulturzentrum Lindlar, Schloß Morsbroich Leverkusen, Evangelische Versöhnungskirche Kürten-Bechen, Pfarrsaal Herz Jesu Schildgen, and Die Comedia Euskirchen. The program included Prof. Steinbach's *Fragmente für Klavier und Violine*, *Air* by Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. Windsperger), Heitor Villa Lobos' *A lenda do caboclo* (arr. Lima), and Camille Saint-Saëns' *Sonata Op. 75* for piano and violin.

Dr. Michael Walker reports that the Amity Trio has released its debut album, *Between Us Now*. The trio, which consists of Katie Dukes (soprano), Michael Walker (horn), and Kimberly Carballo (piano), was founded in 2018 to promote music by living composers through performing and teaching around the globe. Its mission is to contribute a more equitable distribution of artistic voices on a global scale by performing music by underrepresented composers for a variety of audience interests, locations, and socioeconomic strata. The trio often collaborates with composers to create new music that they share with audiences. through their concerts and performances in traditional and non-traditional venues. *Between Us Now* features North American composers Amy Beach, Dr. Lauren Bernofsky, Dr. Alice Jones, Dr. Carrie Magin, Florence Price, and Nur Slim. It is available on Apple Music and the trio's website: www.amitytrio.com Composer, pedagogue and musicologist Dr. Alice Jones reflects on the album: "Once you get to know them, it becomes clear that Amity Trio's debut album couldn't be about anything other than love. As individuals and as an ensemble, they express love through everything they do. Their love of life, of food, of music, of teaching, of community, and of each other are infectious and candid, and this album is a testament to the way they move through the world. The album is a theme and variations on the notion of love itself, turning the idea of love over and seeing it from all its angles, in all its guises—romantic love, familial love, false love, self-love, and love of one's culture. As a whole, the works they've selected invite us to consider how deep love goes, how we can find love in all facets of our lives, and how profound it is to be able to profess love."



Student Spotlights

Hope Willenbrink-Marchesi, who is pursuing the Master of Music in Vocal Performance, was one of two winners of the City of Albuquerque Performance Award at the Vocal Artistry Art Song Festival *Mélodie Française* held on campus April 22-24. In the Vocal Artistry Division, Hope also won the Louise Bass Excellence Award for her performance. Other UNM winners in the Vocal Artistry category were graduate vocal students *Lore Hazard* (Carmoline Grady Award), *Cameron Smith* (Schubert Award), and *Margot Friedli* (Polyphony: Voices of New Mexico Award). In the Young Artist Division, *Nadine Adisho* won the Quintessence Choral Artist of the Southwest Award and *Jacqueline Dapp* received the Brahms Award.



Alumni Updates

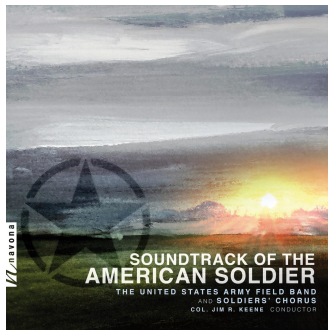


Robert Riggs (B.M., 1969; M.M., 1973) retired in 2019 as Professor Emeritus from the University of Mississippi. After leaving UNM, where his major violin professors were Kurt Frederick and Leonard Felberg, he moved to Germany and performed symphonic and operatic repertoire for five years with the Niedersächsische Staatsorchester in Hanover. Returning to the U. S., he earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in musicology at Harvard University, while also freelancing in Boston with the Handel and Haydn Society, the Lyric Opera, and other orchestras. In Mississippi he taught violin and musicology for 30 years, six of which he also served as Chair of the Music Department, and he performed regularly with the Oxford Piano Trio. In addition, for two years he was a visiting professor at the University of Utah. He has presented research papers at numerous national and international conferences. His publications

include articles on Mozart, aesthetics, and performance practice (in *The Musical Quarterly*, *Mozart-Jahrbuch*, *Journal of Musicology*, and *College Music Society Symposium*); two books, *Leon Kirchner: Composer, Performer, and Teacher*, and *The Violin* (both with the University of Rochester Press); and two chapters in *The Creative Worlds of Joseph Joachim* (Boydell and Brewer). In retirement, he remains active as both musicologist and violinist, performing with the orchestra of the Santa Fe Pro Musica in recent years.

Raven Chacon (B.A., 2001), a Diné composer, performer and installation artist, has been awarded the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Music for a large ensemble work for chamber orchestra and pipe organ that he composed in 2021. *Voiceless Mass* was written specifically for the organ in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee. The Pulitzer citation describes the work as “a mesmerizing, original work...that evokes the weight of history in a church setting, a concentrated and powerful musical expression with a haunting visceral impact.” In his entry questionnaire the composer wrote, “This work considers the spaces in which we gather, the history of access of these spaces, and the land upon which these buildings sit. Though ‘mass’ is referenced in the title, the piece contains no audible singing voices, instead using the openness of the large space to intone the constricted intervals of the wind and string instruments. In exploiting the architecture of the cathedral, *Voiceless Mass* considers the futility of giving voice to the voiceless, when ceding space is never an option for those in power.” A member of the Navajo Nation, Mr. Chacon was born in Fort Defiance, Arizona, and grew up both there and in Albuquerque. After attending UNM, he later received a Master of Fine Arts from the California Institute of the Arts in Santa Clarita, California. He has performed across the U. S. and has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the United States Artists fellowship in music and the Pew Fellowship. From 2009 to 2018, he was a part of the southwestern Native American artist collective Postcommodity. Every year he teaches students from the Navajo, Hopi and Salt River Pima-Maricopa reservations to write string quartets for the Native American Composer Apprenticeship Project in Arizona (NACAP). He is the first Native American composer to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for music.





Dr. Karl Hinterbichler reports that *Colonel Jim R. Keene* (B.M., 1988) has received a Grammy Award for Best Immersive Audio Album for the recording *Soundtrack of the American Soldier*, on which he conducted The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus. The Army Field Band is the U. S. Army's premier touring musical organization. No military band has ever won a Grammy before, nor has any concert band won a Grammy award. Born and raised in the Albuquerque South Valley, Keene played violin in the Albuquerque Youth Symphony and graduated from UNM with a degree in piano performance and also performed in the UNM Symphony Orchestra. He went on to get a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, graduating with honors. In 1993,

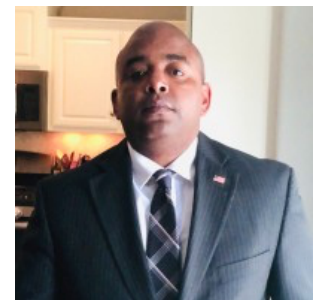
Keene was accepted into the Army bands program as a band officer and conductor. He served as Commandant of the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, as Commandant of the Army School of Music at Norfolk, Virginia, and at The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Washington, D.C., the U. S. Army Europe Band and Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany, and the Army Ground Forces Band in Atlanta, Georgia. In January, 2015, he became the Commander of the United States Army Field Band. In his career he has also led the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, The Detroit Symphony and the Dallas Wind Symphony and has performed on piano with Ray Charles in Frankfurt, Germany. He has performed for seven U. S. presidents, led music for the interments of former presidents Reagan and Ford, and for numerous performances at the White House for many dignitaries. The UNM Department of Music has awarded the first Distinguished Music Alumni Award to Col. Keene in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the field of music. The award presentation was made at the Army Field Band's concert February 26, 2022, at the Lensic Theater in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Col. Keene was nominated by Prof. Hinterbichler for this award.



Dr. Arianne Johnson Quinn (B.A., 2011) has accepted a permanent faculty position as Music Special Collections Librarian at Florida State University. She has also been awarded a long-term fellowship as the inaugural Noël Coward Fellow through the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts (2022-2023). The outcome of the fellowship will be a research guide of Coward holdings at the NYPL for the Performing Arts, digitization of significant holdings and a publication related to her research. She will also curate a case exhibition for the library and present her work in the Bruno Walter Auditorium in early 2023. Dr. Quinn holds the M.A. and Ph.D. in Historical Musicology from Princeton University and M.A. in Music/Women's and Gender Studies from Brandeis University. Her research focuses on the cultural, political, and musical intersections between the American and British musical in London's West End from 1920-1960, particularly the work of Noël Coward, Kurt Weill,

Lerner and Loewe, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and Rodgers and Hammerstein. She has published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on the reception of the postwar American and British musical in such journals as *Studies in Musical Theatre* and *New England Theatre Journal*. A pianist and singer by training, she also performs with local ensembles, including the Tallahassee Bach Parley.

Jason Morgan (M.M., 1998), former euphonium student of Karl Hinterbichler, has retired from the U. S. Army Band (Washington) and currently works for the Department of Homeland Security in Omaha, Nebraska.





Zachary Squibb (B.M.E., 2016), Band Director for Madison Middle School in Vista, California, has been awarded Education Arts Teacher of the Year by the Vista Unified School District. Zachary received his bachelor's degree in Music Education from UNM, studying trombone with Dr. Karl Hinterbichler. He had numerous teaching experiences before beginning work for VUSD in 2019. In 2015, he was employed by the New Mexico Philharmonic as a brass instructor and ensemble conductor for the Young Musician Initiative, an instrumental music program for disadvantaged elementary-level students. In 2017, he began working for Deer Valley Unified School District in Phoenix, Arizona. While at Deer Valley, he taught numerous courses, including orchestra, general music, and band at the elementary and middle school levels. Zachary's vision for the Madison Middle School Band Program is to provide a high-quality musical experience for all students by maintaining high standards in a welcoming and supportive environment. He believes in celebrating diversity and that music has a unique ability to bring people together.

Russ Ballenger (M.M., 2012), former trombone student of Karl Hinterbichler, is now teaching in Houston and has been named Elementary Teacher of the Year in the Montgomery Independent School District.



An article by *Charles M. Atkinson* (B.F.A., 1963), "Dippermouth Blues and *Ad te levavi*: Modes of Transmission and the Question of Musical Identity," has recently been published in *The Musical Quarterly*, vol. 104, nos. 3-4 (2021), pp. 1-36, in volume 2 of a special issue of the journal in honor of Leo Treitler on his 90th birthday "in celebration of a lifetime devoted to the explorations of the musical mind, presented in gratitude by colleagues, students, and admirers." Edited by Judith Lochhead and Vera Micznik, the article is available digitally at: <<https://academic.oup.com/mq/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/musqtl/gdab021/6511907>>. In forwarding his news about this accomplishment, Charles wrote, "Every time something like this happens, I can't help but think of how fortunate I am to have been able to attend UNM. I wouldn't trade that experience for anything."

In Memoriam

This spring saw a great loss to the Department of Music when *Professor Eric Andrew Rombach-Kendall*, 64, died on the night of January 24, 2022, from a major heart attack. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sue Ann Rombach, and his uncle, Tom Tappan. He is survived by his father, Jerry Kendall of South Carolina, wife Julie Rombach-Kendall, daughter Rebecca Kendall, son Michael Kendall, and half-sisters Karen Beagle, Christine White, Kathy Van Riper and Shelly Rombach. In an email to UNM College of Fine Arts students, staff, and faculty, Interim Chair of Music Michael Hix announced Professor Rombach-Kendall's death, noting, "Eric was a legendary educational figure in New Mexico and across the country. His passion for his students, his love of music, and his commitment to excellence was unparalleled."



Eric was born in California and moved to Tacoma, Washington, as a child. He attended the University of Puget Sound for his Bachelor of Music, and later the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for his Master of Music degrees. He had been the Director

of Bands at the University of New Mexico since 1993, and had served as College Band Directors National Association president from 2011 to 2013. Prior to coming to UNM, he was the Band Director at Boston University from 1989-1993, and also served as the Band Director of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1988 and as a high school band director in Washington.

Professor Rombach-Kendall was a kind, honest teacher and conductor with fantastic musicianship, but even more importantly, he was an incredible human being. As a husband, Eric regularly shared many outdoor adventures with his wife, Julie, often indulging her moose obsession. He loved being in nature and camping with his family. One of his proudest moments was when Rebecca married David Sorensen in 2019. He also loved watching Michael play football and basketball and run track. He was very proud of Michael's Personal Trainer certification and high grades at UNM. Contributions in Eric's memory may be made to the Eric Rombach-Kendall Memorial Band Scholarship by mailing to the UNM Foundation, 700 Lomas NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, or online at <https://www.unmfund.org/fund/rombach-kendall>



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