

## New Faculty This Year



Last fall we welcomed *Dr. Christoph Wagner* as our new Assistant Professor of Cello. Dr. Wagner received first prizes at the German Youth Competition *Jugend Musiziert*, *Ribalta Mozart Italia* in Italy, and the *Peter Pirazzi* Competition in Germany, and was twice a prize winner of the *National*

*Society of Arts and Letters* competition in Bloomington, Indiana. In 2018, he received the *Sviatoslav Richter Grant* from Rice University, and in 2019 the *Amici di Via Gabina* Fellowship for research and performances in Italy. His international career has spanned four continents, including appearances in Europe, South Africa, South America, China and the U.S.

Dr. Wagner has been a passionate music ambassador as fellowship holder from *Live Music Now—Yehudi Menuhin Foundation* in Germany and as a musician in *Classical Connections* in Bloomington, where he played numerous concerts in underserved areas. Active in expanding the role of the arts in community outreach, Wagner participated in a summer residency with *LA Street Symphony* in Los Angeles in 2018, working with homeless and prison communities, and was a Young Artist Fellow with *DA CAMERA* Houston from 2018–2020.

Dr. Wagner received a Bachelor of Music from the University of Music in Frankfurt, a Master of Music from Indiana University, and a D.M.A. from Rice University. As a graduate research fellow at Houston Methodist Research Institute he conducted research focusing on injuries and injury prevention in orchestral musicians. He taught as adjunct faculty of music at Lone Star College in Houston from 2018–2023 and regularly gives masterclasses and lectures throughout the U.S. and South America.

*Dr. Adolfo Estrada* also joined us last fall as Inclusive Excellence Post-Doctoral and Visiting Doctoral fellow. His research focuses on historical and contemporary mariachi performance practice. His dissertation, “Ritual and Meaning in the Mariachi Festival Movement of the United States,” explores *communitas* and the liminal spaces within various components of the U.S. mariachi festival movement. A Latin American music specialist, his primary geo-cultural expertise is Mexico and its diasporic communities throughout Latin America and the U.S. He holds a B.A. in Mexican American Studies with a minor in music from the University of Texas–Pan American, an M.M. in Ethnomusicology from UT–Rio Grande Valley, and a Ph.D. in Fine Arts in Musicology from Texas Tech University.

An avid performer on guitar, Dr. Estrada has played with mariachi ensembles in Mexico and the U.S. He has studied with Rigoberto Alfar and Jesús “Chuy” Hernández for mariachi, and Peter Terry Muska and Matthias Lang for classical guitar. He has performed as guitarist and vocalist in numerous concerts and studio recording sessions with professional mariachi ensembles, including the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies in Washington, D.C., Houston Grand Opera’s *Cruzar La Cara De La Luna*, the 2015 world premiere of the Chicago Lyric mariachi opera *El Pasado Nunca Se Termina*, and appearances on the Tonight Show and the Stephen Colbert Show.

Professional mariachi accompaniments include for Plácido Domingo, Flor Silvestre, Vikki Carr, Little Joe, Nydia Rojas, Virginia Tola, Azucena, and Pablo Montero. In 2010, he performed with Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán. Within the mariachi community, he is known as an expert in the mariachi *armonía* section, which functions similarly to the continuo section of the baroque ensemble, comprising classical guitar, *vihuela*, *guitarra de golpe*, *arpa*, and *guitarrón*.



## Welcome to Our Fulbright Scholars



This semester, the Department is thrilled to welcome Senior Fulbright scholar *Dr. Naomi Sunderland* from Griffith University in Australia, who will be conducting research and co-teaching the class "Songwriting in Community." Dr. Sunderland has been awarded a Fulbright Indigenous Scholarship Funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency. Creative, collaborative, and scholarly outputs from Sunderland's work will include a minimum of two collaborative peer-reviewed academic publications, two plain English policy and practice resources written for community music professionals, program directors, and arts-health policy makers in provincial and federal governments in Australia and the U.S., and a suite of songs co-written and recorded with UNM students, staff, and research participants. This research will be conducted in close collaboration with Fulbright host Dr. Kristina Jacobsen, Professor of Ethnomusicology and Anthropology (Sociocultural and Linguistic), coordinator for the "Prison Song Project: Community Building through Cowriting," which will be key elements in the Fulbright exchange.

Dr. Sunderland is a member of the School of Health Sciences and Social Work and Creative Arts Research Institute at Griffith University, Australia. She is a proud descendant of the First Nations People of Australia alongside her mixed European heritage. She has an extensive research and publishing record in arts-health, well-being, and First Nations social justice with a particular focus on creative, anti-oppressive, and trauma-informed research approaches. She taught in the First Peoples and Social Justice team at Griffith University from 2014, specializing in transformative learning and teaching, cultural and social health determinants, and anti-oppressive practice. She was awarded an Australian Research Council Fellowship (2021–2024) to study the effect of First Nations' music on social and cultural determinants of health. She is a singer-songwriter and community music facilitator, and has a PhD in applied ethics and human rights from the Queensland University of Technology.

*Dr. Jorge Rodrigo Sigal Sefchovich* will also be joining the department as a Fulbright scholar. Dr. Sigal has served as a composer, cultural manager and full time professor since 2017 at ENES, UNAM, Morelia, where he co-founded the Music and Artistic Technology undergraduate program ([www.enesmorelia.org](http://www.enesmorelia.org)). He is interested in new technologies, especially in the electroacoustic music field. Since 2006, he has been the director of the Mexican Centre for Music and Sonic Arts ([www.cmmas.org](http://www.cmmas.org)), where he coordinates

numerous initiatives of creation, education, research and cultural management in relation to sound and music. He earned a doctorate degree from the London City University and completed his postdoctoral studies at UNAM. He has a diploma in cultural management from the UAM-BID and has continued his studies and creative projects with the help from various scholarships and support from institutions like Fulbright, FONCA (SNCA member 2011-18), Pride C (UNAM) and the DeVos Foundation for cultural management, among others. Dr. Sigal is a member of the National Researchers System Level 1 from Conacyt and for twenty years he has taken part in the Luminico project ([www.luminico.org](http://www.luminico.org)). He is the director of the "Visiones Sonoras" festival ([www.visionessonoras.org](http://www.visionessonoras.org)) and editor of "Sonic Ideas" journal ([www.sonicideas.org](http://www.sonicideas.org)).



Dr. Sigal's research at UNM will explore the creative process behind composing music for chamber music ensemble and soloists with new technologies. He will be creating scores and then working with the performers (students and staff) in a feedback process using digital tools that will allow him to create a final score by including their feedback, expertise and interests. The project will include a published article describing the compositional process. In addition, Dr. Sigal will be developing a new course on the history and characteristics of electroacoustic music in Latin America.

## New Jazz Scholarship Announced

*Glenn Kostur*, Director of UNM's Jazz Studies Program, announces the Department's first scholarship specific to jazz studies. The Richard Karmel Endowed Scholarship in Jazz Studies will be awarded each year to a deserving student in UNM's jazz studies program, beginning in the 2024-25 academic year.

Karmel had a successful career as a professor of psychology at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, but his life-long passion was jazz. He played the clarinet and saxophone, dabbled in piano, and collaborated with some of the finest musicians in Montreal, performing and composing jazz instrumentals. Additionally, he co-edited two books titled *Psychoanalytic Explorations in Music* and *Psychoanalytic Explorations in Music: Second Series*. The scholarship is made possible through a gift by his sister, Nina Forrest. Once she discovered UNM's thriving jazz scene and degree program, she decided to continue Karmel's legacy and honor her brother's memory with this scholarship.

## Opera Theatre presents Mozart

UNM Opera Theatre will present Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, April 4-7 in Keller Hall. The performances are directed by *Dr. Olga Perez Flora* and will be conducted by *Dr. Kristin Ditlow*. Tickets for all local music students are free of charge with an added \$10 plus one ticket.

## Faculty Notes

*Dr. Olga Perez Flora*, Assistant Professor of Voice, will be singing in Opera Southwest's upcoming production of Jorge Martín's *Before Night Falls*, a true story of a persecuted Cuban writer who came to the United States. Dr. Flora says, "I play his mother and it is dear to me, as I am Cuban American."



The opera is based on Reinaldo Arenas' autobiography, which has also been made into a major motion picture starring Javier Bardem. Arenas experienced childhood poverty, joy in nature, a stint with the guerrillas, international acclaim as a writer, imprisonment as a political dissident (and as an unapologetically gay man), a daring escape from Cuba, and exile in the U.S.

The opera will be produced by Opera Southwest together with the New Mexico Gay Men's Chorus. The Chorus has been an empowering voice in Albuquerque since 1981, with its mission to reduce intolerance through musical performance. Performances will be Feb. 25, Mar. 1 and Mar. 3 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.



the Embassy Area/Madeleine district in the heart of Paris.

*Dr. Kristin Ditlow*, Associate Professor of Vocal Coaching, reports that she recently performed in Paris, France, with Guillaume Combet, Associate Prof. of Violin at the University of Delaware. The performance was given as part of the concert series at St. Michael's Paris, an international church in

*Dr. Michael Hix*, Chair of the Department of Music and Associate Professor of Voice, has maintained an active performing career while serving as Department Chair. During 2023 he performed as a soloist with the Oregon Bach Festival, Idaho Falls Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony, Highland Park Chorale, Santa Fe Pro Musica, Quintessence Choral Festival, Brevard Community Chorus, Las Cruces Symphony, and Roswell Symphony, among others. While his year of performances included such standards as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, his performance with the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers in Richland, Washington, last November featured a new work in a very unconventional setting—Shawn Crouch's *The Road from Hiroshima: A Requiem*.

The libretto of Crouch's work is drawn from the Requiem Mass, juxtaposed with excerpts from Marc Kaminsky's 1984 narrative poem from which the work draws its name. First performed in 2005 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the cantata-style work is scored for soprano and baritone soloists, chorus, string quintet, wind quintet, and percussion. It begins with a brief "awakening" of bells days after the bombing and moves backward to the moment of destruction; then in the final minutes, Hiroshima as an industrial city before August 6, 1945. Borrowing much of its form from Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, *The Road from Hiroshima* operates on multiple levels. The vocal soloists represent the voices whose story is told through Kaminsky's poetry; the choir, singing the Latin Requiem text, represents the voice of human incarnation. The Latin and English texts are woven together to create not only a lament on suffering and loss, but also a visceral experience of life itself in the time of tragedy. The performance was made even more poignant due to its location—the Hanford B Reactor site. This decommissioned nuclear facility is a U.S. National Historic Monument; the plutonium for the nuclear bomb used in the Trinity test in New Mexico and the Fat Man bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, was created in the B Reactor.

Dr. Hix was joined in this performance by his wife and UNM alum, soprano *Ingela Onstad* (M.M., 2014).





*Dr. Rafael Videira* (M.M., 2009) was recently featured as one of the performing artists in the American Viola Society's inaugural album titled *AVS Presents—Works by Underrepresented Composers*. His contribution included *Improviso* for solo viola by Brazilian composer Olivier Toni. Dr. Videira has been teaching the String Pedagogy classes at UNM since Fall 2023. He holds a doctoral degree in

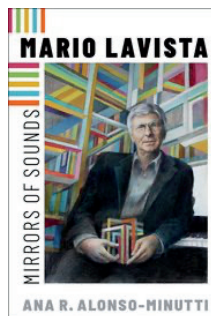
viola performance and pedagogy from the University of Oregon, and currently teaches orchestra at Manzano High School in Albuquerque

*Dr. Ana Alonso Minutti* announces that her new book *Mario Lavista: Mirrors of Sounds*, was released in October by Oxford University Press. In it, she discusses the works of the late Mexican composer Mario Lavista (1943–2021) and the influence of his interdisciplinary



compositions on Mexican music and the related fields of visual art, film, poetry and dance. Dr. Alonso Minutti's research began during her doctoral work and included interviews with Lavista. The book is not a biography, but centers on the composer as a key figure in Mexican contemporary music from the late 20th century to the present. One of Dr. Alonso Minutti's goals was to contribute to the cultural diversity of music education, and thanks to a grant from UNM, the book is available in a free, open-access digital format so that it can reach as large an audience as possible. The book has gathered much attention in Mexico, where it has been featured in some of the principal newspapers (*La Reforma*, *El Universal*, *La Jornada*, *La Crónica de Hoy*), and interviews with Dr. Alonso Minutti were featured both on Radio Educación (the radio station of Mexico's Secretariat of Culture) and on the primary cultural television station, Canal 22.

A book presentation will take place on February 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Keller Hall; the event will include a celebration of contemporary Mexican music, poetry, and conversation, featuring composer and pianist *Dr. José Luis Hurtado*, cellist *Dr. Christoph Wagner*, poet Dr. Manuel Portillo, musicologist Dr. Luisa Vilar-Payá, and guests.



*Dr. Karl Hinterbichler*,

Professor of Music, writes that last summer he was in Germany for several musical experiences. In Berlin, he attended a performance of the *Flying Dutchman* by the Berlin State Opera, and performances by the Berlin Philharmonic and Berlin Konzerthaus Orchestra. In Munich he attended the Bavarian State Opera's performance of Verdi's *Aida*. In Leipzig he attended the Mahler Festival and heard lectures on the composer and performances by the Concertgebouw Orchestra, Gewandhaus Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Symphony, Budapest Festival Orchestra and Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. He also attended a service/concert at the historic Thomaskirche, where Bach was music director from 1723 until his death.



Dr. Hinterbichler's trip also included a visit to London and the Royal College of Music. His stay allowed him to attend concerts at the BBC Proms Festival in Royal Albert Hall, where he heard performances by the Boston Symphony, BBC Symphony, Les Siècles, BBC Singers, London Symphony. The festival is one of the largest classical concert events in the world.

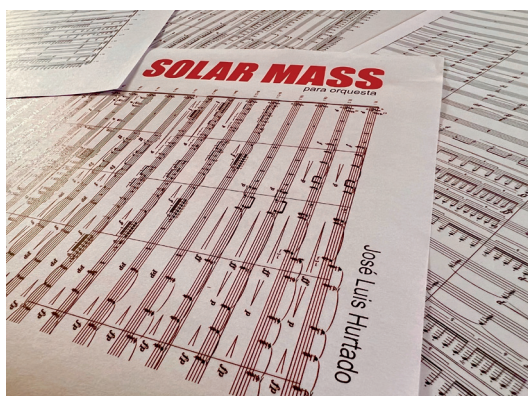
In other news, Dr. Hinterbichler reports that Cherry Classics in Vancouver has published his *Orchestral Etudes for Tuba*, and more recently his *Orchestral Etudes for Tuba, Vol. 2*. He has also completed *Band Audition Etudes for Tuba, Vol. I*, *Band Audition Etudes for Trombone*, and *Bass Trombone Intermediate Etudes*.



*Dr. Hinterbichler & friend at the Leipzig Thomaskirche*

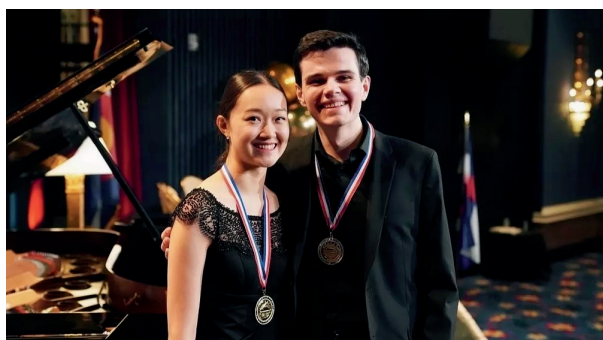
*Dr. José Luis Hurtado*, Professor of Music Theory and Composition, has won the National Morelia Composition Competition for Orchestra (Concurso de Composición Orquestal de Morelia) in Mexico. His piece “Solar Mass” was selected by the jury from some sixty anonymous entries, and the announcement was made on December 15, 2023. The prize includes a monetary award and several performances by Mexican orchestras during 2024.

“Solar Mass” is an 8:30 minute work for orchestra, written in a single block of music that gradually develops, without pauses, until it explodes, creating a dense block of sound, full of energy and dramatic dynamic contrasts that disperse in an immense space. The Concurso de Composición Orquestal is a local government initiative that reaffirms the city of Morelia as UNESCO’s “Ciudad Creativa de la Música”, and as one of the most important cultural centers of the country.



## Alumni Updates

Prof. Falko Steinbach reports that two of his former piano students, *Andreas Landstedt* (B.M., 2021) and *Esther Han* (B.A. in Music, 2021), won first prize in the United States International Duo Piano Competition at the Professional Level. The competition was held January 10-12 at the Broadmoor Hotel International Center in Colorado Springs.



*Esther & Andreas*



*Robert Riggs* (B.M., 1969; M.M., 1973), who retired in 2019 as Professor Emeritus and Chair of the Music Department at the University of Mississippi, remains active as a violinist and musicologist. Since then he has published “The Leon Kirchner–Roger Sessions Correspondence (1948–1950)” in *Leon Kirchner and His Verdant World*, ed. Lisa Kirchner (Verdant World Productions, 2022); (with Mary Riggs) “New Perspectives on J. S. Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*: The Choreographic Vision of John Neumeier,” *BACH: Journal of the Riemenschneider Bach Institute* 54 (2023); and a chapter in *Joseph Joachims Identitäten*, ed. Katharina Uhde (Olms Verlag, 2024). He has also presented papers at the Boston University Center for Beethoven Research, Sounding Habsburg Conference at Bohemian National Hall (New York), U-Mass.-Amherst Bach Symposium, and Schubert Research Center in Vienna. He is grateful to and remembers fondly the inspiring professors at UNM (especially Kurt Frederick, Leonard Felberg, and Walter Keller) who made his career possible.

*Tim Gaiser*, (B.A. in Fine Arts in Music History, 1979) has recently published *Message in the Bottle: A Guide to Tasting Wine*, an indispensable resource for any professional, student or consumer. Tim is an internationally renowned wine expert, educator and blogger, and one of fewer than 300 individuals worldwide to ever attain the Master Sommelier title. He is the former Director of Education and Education chair for the Court of Master Sommeliers, Americas. After graduating from UNM, Tim earned an M.M. in trumpet performance from the University of Michigan.

He writes, “While in school in Ann Arbor, I bartended at two restaurants with outstanding wine programs. It would prove to be important for my career. However, during the first five years in the City I freelanced and got to play with the opera orchestra and other local groups. However, the money was never enough so I had to go back into the restaurant business to help pay the bills. Initially, I bartended at several places but was soon helping with wine buying. Eventually, I was part of the opening crew for a multi-million dollar restaurant where I ran the beverage program and was one of the sommeliers....I’ve been in the wine business since then.”



After being awarded the Outstanding Music Education Graduate from UNM in 2011, *Nicholas Prior* (B.M.E., 2011) then taught for five years at Eisenhower Middle School in Albuquerque, developing the program from two choirs to seven, and earning four consecutive NMAA state titles. Eisenhower was named the NMMEA State Honor Choir in 2016, and he was also named the 2015 New and Emerging Music Educator by NMMEA.



Nicholas also worked with the UNM Children's Chorus, the Albuquerque Boy Choir, and the NM Kodály Institute, and he conducted various district honor choirs all around the state.

In the fall of 2016, he moved to New York City to earn his Master in Music and Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. He was recruited shortly thereafter to take over the prestigious choir program of Mt. Eden High School in Hayward, California. Then, after deciding to take time away from teaching, Nicholas returned to New York, where he began arranging for show choirs across the country. He also conducted with the Canticum Novum Singers in NYC, taught with the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, and was the 2019 NMACDA Elementary All-State clinician and conductor. As a professional chorister, he sings on staff at the historic St. Bartholomew's Cathedral, as well as Temple Emanu-el, both in Manhattan. He is a professional member of the Bard Chorale, the Bard Summerscape Opera Chorus, Essential Voices USA, the New York Virtuoso Singers, and others in the area.

Besides working as a clinician and adjudicator for show choirs nationwide, Nicholas also does digital transcription and engraving for a music education technology company. He is currently composing and arranging a catalog of octavos dedicated to developing voices of the choral classroom that he hopes to have published in the coming years. Nicholas returns to New Mexico as often as he can to visit his family and to work with school choirs, as well as to test if his answer to "Red or green?" will need to evolve. This Christmas season he sang in the Voices of Liberty for Disney's Candlelight Processional at EPCOT.

*Eduardo J. Calderon* (B.A., Economics, Music Minor, 2021) writes that a couple of months after graduating he decided to start learning music production in an effort to produce music for himself, his band, commercially, and for any other clients that he wanted to work with. He moved to Los Angeles in 2021 to attend the Los Angeles Recording School to learn everything from music production, audio engineering, songwriting, music business, etc. He graduated

in 2023 with honors, and was named one of the best students to attend the school by numerous faculty and staff. After producing for about two years, he has had the opportunity to work with multi-platinum songwriter Michael E. Synder (Universal Music Publishing Group), and Jonny Gorenc (GORENC/The Pilot Kids), who was formerly a signed artist at Warner Chappell Music. He is actively working with them still, along with other clients for whom he is currently producing, mixing, and mastering. He has created a [multi-genre album](#) while out in Los Angeles as a creative outlet for himself, and as a portfolio for potential clients. His website is: <https://www.valorianmusic.com/>

## Student Spotlights



*Axel Retif*, a second-year master's student in musical composition and a student of Dr. José Luis Hurtado, reports that this past year his compositions were featured in 30 concerts around world in different events and music festivals. One of the highlights was the honor of representing Mexico at the prestigious 69th International Rostrum of Composers. Additionally, he had the privilege of both performing and composing music in collaboration with Plax Ensemble for a distinguished concert, an event marking the 15th Anniversary of the *Complejo Cultural Universitario* BUAP in Puebla, Mexico. This concert was particularly unique as it included a live painting performance by the talented visual artist Alejandro Teutli, adding a vibrant visual dimension to the musical experience.



## The UNM Spirit Marching Band in Action



## In Memoriam

UNM alum *Francis B. (Frank) Evans* (1935–2023) passed away while living with his stepdaughter and her husband in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. Frank was born in Edgerton, Missouri. When he was six, the family moved to Pecos, NM. Frank graduated from high school in Albuquerque in 1953 and earned his bachelor's degree (BFA) from UNM in 1958, studying bassoon and education. He also performed with the Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra. His career was not a straightforward path, however. He tried to become a professional bassoonist, studying with world renowned bassoonist Saul Schoenbach. After three years it came to a halt when he realized that he was a "good" bassoonist, but not "exceptional." He turned to tuning pianos and repairing woodwinds to earn money while making a transition to a different career. He earned an M.A. in Education from NAU in Flagstaff and an M.A. from New Mexico State at University Park, and taught on the Navajo reservation for four years. After completing his EdD and PhD in Evaluation & Statistics from NMSU in 1969, a position at UW Green Bay opened, where he taught a course about the Menominee Reservation and a countywide reorganization of K-8 bilingual education. Finally, his career settled in Madison, where he was employed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for 30 years as a planning and evaluation specialist. He leaves behind three sons: Thomas McNeil Swope (Evans) of Mérida, Mexico; Andrew Evans (Nancy) of Montpelier, Vermont, and Jeremy Evans (Jennifer) of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; a sister, Joanne Evans of Albuquerque, and a half-brother, Jay D. Evans, Jr. (Elisabeth) of Fort Worth, Texas.



## Giving to UNM Music

We greatly appreciate your support of our department's activities! Your generosity helps us continue offering quality musical experiences to our music students and to the community. Every gift, regardless of the amount, makes an impact! If you would like to make a contribution to the UNM Department of Music, please contact:  
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## Selected Upcoming Performances

February 13: The Music from the Americas series will present a concert by *César Bernal*, double-bassist from Chile. Keller Hall, 7:30 p.m.



March 5: UNM horn faculty *Dr. Michael Walker* will perform "Horn Vibes: Music by Verne Reynolds, Margret Brouwer, and Carl Reinecke," with *Prof. Scott Ney* (percussion), *Dr. Jeffrey Brooks* (clarinet), and Natasha Stojanovska (piano). Keller Hall, 6:00 p.m.

March 18: UNM Professor of Violin *Dr. Carmelo de los Santos* will perform a faculty recital, with program TBA. Keller Hall, 7:30 p.m.



March 21: The Musicology Colloquium will present a talk by Dr. Marco Lutz, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology at University of Cagliari, Italy. Zimmerman Library Waters Room, 2:00 p.m.

April 26: A concert by *New Music New Mexico*, a student ensemble of composers and performers. Program TBA. Keller Hall, 7:30 p.m.



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*UNM Music News* is published twice a year by the  
Department of Music in the  
College of Fine Arts at  
The University of New Mexico

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