

Music and Theater Arts

Music and Theater Arts continues to afford students at MIT the opportunity to experience the unique language and process of the arts. Faculty and teaching staff help students understand art's demand for rigor and discipline and its nonquantitative standards of excellence and beauty. A strong, comprehensive program in both music and theater arts, encompassing history, theory, and performance—taught by a faculty and staff of the highest caliber, whose ongoing professional activities inform their teaching—has been and will continue to be our hallmark. Because it is comprehensive, the academic program continues to produce graduates who have the talent and desire to extend their education in music or theater beyond the undergraduate level.

Highlights of the Year

A Question of Love, a new chamber opera by lecturer Charles Shadle and senior lecturer Michael Ouellette, was premiered at the New England Chamber Opera Series.

The MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, directed by lecturer Frederick Harris in collaboration with MIT's Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, presented *Words and Music and Other Sonic Collaborations* with special guests clarinetist Don Byron, writer Paul Auster, and professor and section head Evan Ziporyn. In April, lecturer Harris and the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble presented a special alumni concert in honor of the 75th birthday of Herb Pomeroy, founder and former director of the Festival Jazz Ensemble. Mr. Pomeroy conducted the ensemble, as did James O'Dell, Everett Longstreth, and lecturer Mark Harvey, all of whom have served the jazz program at MIT. The program included the world premiere of *The Quiet Words of the Wise*, composed by Jamshied Sharifi for Mr. Pomeroy.

The MIT Wind Ensemble, directed by lecturer Harris, together with the MIT Chamber Chorus and MIT Concert Choir, directed by lecturer William Cutter, presented the world premiere of *Gleams from the Bosom of Darkness*, for chorus and wind ensemble, by Lior Navok and the Boston premiere of *Abraham*, for chorus and brass choir, by Institute Professor John Harbison.

Visiting artist Sherrill Milnes, the internationally acclaimed operatic baritone, spent two days conducting master classes with the MIT choirs and voice students from the Emerson Scholarship Program.

The Music and Theater Arts Section was well represented during the festivities surrounding the inauguration of MIT president Susan Hockfield. The MIT Symphony Orchestra, conducted by associate professor Dante Anzolini, performed Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 6 at the Inaugural Concert. Professor Ziporyn and assistant professor Jay Scheib were presenters for the Inaugural Art and Technology Symposium. For the inauguration ceremony, Professor Peter Child's *Fanfare and Fugue* began the processional. Lecturer Elena Ruehr's *In Time of Silver Rain* was performed at the opening of the ceremony. Professor Harbison's *Chorus from Pindar*, composed especially for the occasion, was performed by the MIT Chamber Chorus under the direction of lecturer

Cutter. Gamelan Galak Tika, directed by Professor Ziporyn, and Rambax, MIT's African Drumming Ensemble, directed by assistant professor Patricia Tang and artist-in-residence Lamine Toure, also performed during the ceremony.

Honors and Awards

Professor Child, funded by Meet the Composer and the American Symphony Orchestra League, has become artist-in-residence with the Albany Symphony Orchestra. Professor Child was awarded the 2004 Levitan Prize. The Levitan Prize supports innovative and creative scholarship in the humanities by School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences faculty members.

Professor Ellen Harris received the Westrup Prize from the British music journal *Music and Letters*. Her article "Handel the Investor" was deemed the most distinguished contribution to the journal in 2004.

Musical America International named Bang on a Can All-Stars, codirected by Professor Ziporyn, its Ensemble of the Year. Professor Ziporyn and lecturer Harvey each received an ASCAP Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. The award is based on the unique prestige value of each writer's catalog of original compositions, as well as recent performances of those works.

Associate professor Thomas DeFrantz received the 2004 de la Torre Bueno Prize for outstanding English-language publication in dance for his book *Dancing Revelations*. Professor Scheib was presented with a Presidential Certificate from Harvard University for his production of Alfred de Musset's play *Lorenzaccio* at the Loeb Drama Center. Lecturer Ouellette received a SHASS Infinite Mile Award for outstanding contributions to teaching and service in the school. Two of the section's Emerson Scholarship students received distinguished recognition. Senior Daniel Stein received a Fulbright Fellowship to study flute with Jacques Zoon at the Geneva Conservatory in Switzerland and graduate student Mary Farbood won the Prague International Harpsichord Competition.

Program Highlights

Enrollments in Music and Theater were 998 and 320, respectively, for a total of 1,318. Music and Theater Arts continued to host the MIT Chapel Series, a successful concert series featuring local solo and group performers. The MIT Guest Artist Series hosted the Cypress Quartet, the Calder Quartet, and the Kuss Quartet in a series of three concerts in Kresge Auditorium. Visiting artist Dewa Ketut Alit worked and performed with Gamelan Galak Tika, producing a new composition, *Semara Wisaya*, that was presented at Zankel Hall in the Carnegie Hall Performance Center in New York. Gamelan Galak Tika ended the year with a tour of Bali, where they performed at the Bali International Arts Festival. Rambax traveled to Senegal to perform and work firsthand with local drummers. MIT's Heritage of the Arts of Southeast Asia presented a gala concert featuring *bhajan* singer Anup Jalota and tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain. The MIT Faculty Series included performances by the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, conducted by lecturer Harvey, assistant professor Brian Robison presenting some of his new compositions, and a performance by the chamber music group Sonos, with Professor Marcus Thompson

and senior lecturer David Deveau. Senior lecturer Martin Marks presented a multimedia concert celebrating the release of *More Treasures from American Film Archives*, for which new scores have been composed by lecturer Marks. Dance Theater Ensemble, directed by Professor DeFrantz, collaborated with lecturer Harris and the MIT Wind Ensemble to create *Scalar Planes* for their December concert. Internationally renowned tap dance artist Dianne Walker was an artist-in-residence working with Dance Theater Ensemble. Professor Janet Sonenberg directed *The Internationalist* with Dramashop. Senior lecturer Ouellette adapted and directed *The Spring of Love*, based on Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

Achievements

Professor Child saw premieres of his compositions *Heavenly Mountain*, for violin and orchestra, by Chee-Yun and the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and *Moonsculptures*, for jazz tenor sax, violin, and piano, by the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota.

Professor DeFrantz wrote the libretto for *The Man in My Head*, with music by Michael Wartofsky and performed by Darius De Hass in New York. *Ennobling Nona*, directed by Professor DeFrantz, was the featured presentation at the Performance Studies International Conference at Brown University. He presented papers at Brown University, Florida State University, and the American Studies Association in Atlanta. He received a National Performance Network Creation Fund Grant to create a new piece for Theater Offensive of Boston.

Professor Harbison composed a new work, *Songs America Loves to Sing*, for the Atlanta Chamber Players and Da Capo Chamber Players. He composed the overture *Darkbloom* for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, celebrating James Levine's first season as music director. Recent premieres included *Symphony No. 4* by the Seattle Symphony and *Piano Trio* by the Amelia Trio.

Professor Harris saw the publication of articles in the *Journal of Musicology*, the *Harvard Encyclopedia of Classical Tradition*, *Music and Letters*, and *Reading Texts*. She presented papers at Indiana University, Queen's University, Belfast, Longy School of Music, and Harvard University, and for the Boston Early Music Festival. She supplied program notes for the New York City Opera production of Handel's *Orlando* and liner notes for Renée Fleming's new CD *Handel Arias*.

Professor Lowell Lindgren presented papers in Rome and New Mexico. He published articles in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Newsletter of the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music, and *Il Saggiatore Musicale*.

Professor Sonenberg continues as consultant to the Royal Shakespeare Company working on their recent production of *Hamlet* and in collaboration with playwright Adriano Shaplin on a new work for the company.

Professor Thompson performed at the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, the Sitka Summer Music Festival, the Amsterdam Chamber Music Festival, and the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego.

Professor Ziporyn performed with Bang on a Can in Zankel Hall, New York City, and on tour with Philip Glass and Iva Bittova. He was the featured composer at the Other Minds Festival in San Francisco. He performs on the new Bang on a Can's CDs *Music in Fifths* and *Elida*, on the Cantaloupe label.

Professor Robison's composition *The Bonfire of the Civil Liberties* was performed by Boston Musica Viva.

Professor Scheib directed *The Medea*, a play with music, at La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York and the MIT Faculty Workshop Production of Chekhov's *Platonov*.

Professor Tang was the invited speaker at the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal. She presented a conference paper entitled "The Africanization of Hip-Hop in Senegal" at the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting in Chicago. She performed regularly with her Sengalese Drum Ensemble, Rambax.

Senior lecturer Deveau concertized at the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego and the Strings in the Mountains Festival in Aspen, Colorado. He made his debut solo tour of China, performing in Beijing's Forbidden City Concert Hall. To rave reviews, he performed Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto* with the Miami Symphony Orchestra on 24-hours notice when the planned performer suddenly withdrew. He performed a solo recital at the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, celebrating his 10th year as artistic director.

Senior lecturer Marks appeared as piano soloist in Newcastle, England, for the Tyneside Cinema Silent Film Festival.

Senior lecturer Ouellette played the part of Halley in a staged reading of Alan Brody's *Small Infinities*. He performed at the New England Conservatory Gala celebrating the 75th birthday of pianist Ran Blake.

Senior lecturer George Ruckert took part in a live seminar telecast between MIT and Singapore for the Singapore–MIT Alliance. He performed at Clarke University and in Tang Hall at MIT.

Senior lecturer Pamela Wood continues as a faculty member at the Kodaly Music Institute at New England Conservatory for their summer program. She was artist-in-residence at Buckingham, Brown, and Nichols School in Cambridge. She continues as conductor and music director for the Camerata at Pine Manor College.

Lecturer Cutter is chorus master and associate conductor for the Boston Lyric Opera Company and continues as choral director at Boston Conservatory.

Lecturer Harris was guest conductor with the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota. He was assistant conductor for the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artist's Program. He has signed a contract to publish his book *Seeking the Infinite: The Musical Life of Stanislaw Skrowaczewski*.

Lecturer Harvey received a commission from the Organization of American Kodaly Educators. *Modern Invention* for jazz orchestra and vocal soloist was performed at their national conference in Springfield, Massachusetts. His new CD *Trumpet Madness* was released on the Leo Records label. He presented the paper “Music as Play” at a symposium given by the Society for the Arts, Religion, and Contemporary Culture in New York City.

Lecturer Jean Rife performed in numerous venues, including the Apple Hill Chamber Music series and the International Horn Workshop at Indiana University.

Lecturer Ruehr received commissions from the North Carolina Chamber Music Festival and the Florestan Project. She saw performances of numerous works by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and the Providence Singers, as well as at the Virginia Chamber Music Festival.

Personnel

Professor DeFrantz became associate professor with tenure on July 1, 2004. Professor Tang was approved for promotion to associate professor without tenure, effective July 1, 2005. Six members of our full-time faculty and teaching staff of 20 belong to underrepresented minorities or are women.

Evan Ziporyn

Section Head

Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Music

More information about Music and Theater Arts can be found online at <http://mit.edu/mta/www/>.