



*Enjoy the many photos throughout the newsletter taken in Fall of 2019 by Ron St. Jean. We are grateful for his beautiful work.*



For new, current, and prospective students in the Department of Music at UNH, welcome! For friends and alumni, welcome back! We hope you will enjoy reading about our 2019–20 academic year. Our busy concert schedule was cut short, as was so much else worldwide, by the COVID-19 virus. Classroom and studio faculty quickly adapted to a new online model, often devising ingenious ways to reimagine chamber music and methods courses. We hosted 87 concerts, recitals,

workshops, and other lectures; and 12 students traveled to 12 New Hampshire schools to perform and assist in recruiting prospective students. Our undergraduate students are successful, too. In addition to teaching positions in schools, some go to graduate school, like George Adams (BA, Music Liberal Studies, 2012), who completed his Ph.D at the University of Chicago last fall. Another alum, Amanda Roswick, has pursued a singing career and was recently given the Outstanding Vocal

Jazz Soloist award from *DownBeat*. Our current students and recent graduates have also had their time in the spotlight. Justin Leach was named the Presser Scholar for 2019–20; and composition major Spencer Wiles premiered a major band work at Spaulding High School in 2019. You can find more of our success stories below. On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, thank you for your interest in the Department of Music. ~Rob Haskins, Department Chair



## SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Kylie Smith '22, Juliana Good '21, Allison Campion '23, and Frances Cooke '22

The 2019-20 year was another great season for the UNH Orchestra, continuing an exploration of the orchestral works of Vaclav Nelhybel. In October, the students performed *Music for Orchestra* and the unpublished work, *Con Brio*, recording both pieces for future release. In March, Dr. Elizabeth Gunlogson joined the orchestra for the world premiere of the orchestral version of the *Concerto for Clarinet*. Originally composed for band, the work was rewritten for orchestra by Nelhybel himself. The premiere took place March 3, 2020, with the composer's widow watching via live-stream.

In December, the orchestra again combined forces with Dr. Favazza and the UNH Choral program in a concert entitled *Homeland*. Dr Favazza conducted Z. Randall Stroope's *Homeland* and Verdi's *Va pensiero* from *Nabucco*, while Dr. Upham led Dvorak's jubilant *Te Deum*.

Another highlight of the year was an invitation from Dean Michele Dillon to give a presentation to the COLA Dean's Development Board, a group of prominent alumni who come to campus

annually. Dr. Upham and the students performed portions of Shostakovich's *Eighth String Quartet*, transcribed for string orchestra. For more information about the UNH Orchestral program, please visit the Music Department website or reach out directly to [David Upham@unh.edu](mailto:David.Upham@unh.edu).

### Youth Symphony Orchestras

The UNH-YSO has completed its seventh season and remains a valuable program for UNH musicians. Music majors in the string area serve as coaches, working directly with YSO students. Cellist Alex Norberg '21 writes, "I appreciate being able to interact with students right away. This has been a huge

advantage for me, as I learn best from experiencing real situations."

Coaches receive guidance and insight during weekly meetings with Dr. Upham and other faculty. "This helps us to start switching our thinking from 'player' to 'teacher,' which is not easy," says Norberg. "You're forced to think about how to explain techniques that have become natural to you over time. I've applied many of these tools to my own private cello students." What does he say is the best thing about the YSO? "Working with the kids and other coaches is fun!"

Learn more about the UNH-YSO on the [Outreach](#) tab of the department website.



Coach Alex Norberg works with UNH-YSO cellists

## VOCAL ARTS PROJECT



Members of the Vocal Arts Project in "Songs of a Great Nation"

This past fall, the Vocal Arts Project, under the direction of Professor David Ripley and pianist Elizabeth Blood, created a stirring and highly relevant program entitled *Songs of a Great Nation*. The program traced our nation's history from the years of Lewis and Clark to the present. Prof. Ripley arranged a number of the pieces, which also included two of his own, *Courage to Dream* and *Prayer for the Earth*. The spring was

devoted to "All Mozart," featuring excerpts from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*. Unfortunately, this, along with many other events, had to be canceled.



Emily Shafritz '22 (Theatre and Dance) was featured in "Puttin' on the Ritz"



David Ripley, director of Vocal Arts Project



Pianist Elizabeth Blood



## UNH CHOIRS



The 2019–2020 season for UNH Choirs featured many fantastic performances and collaborations. Early in the year, UNH Chamber Singers gave mini-performances for University Open House, where prospective students visited and sat in on their own parts in the chorus. UNH Chamber Singers also performed for the UNH Evening of Distinction. In October, UNH Concert Choir and Chamber Singers presented *My Soul Thirsts* with guest organist, Colby Baker, director of choruses at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy. Held at the Community Church of Durham, this included a performance of Jonathan Dove's *Missa Brevis* for chorus and organ, in addition to works by Whitacre, Kreek, Palestrina, Bernarducci, Dawson, Favazza, and others.

In November, the UNH Chamber Singers joined with ensembles from the Department of Music and the UNH Department of Theatre and Dance to present the performing arts showcase program *Let Us Entertain You* organized by UNH Advancement / Alumni Relations at the Palace Theater, Manchester, NH. UNH Chamber Singers continued a tradition of performing for the faculty and staff of the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOC) at Morse Hall in the program *Science Meets Music*. Special thanks to UNH Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Marc Lessard, for the invitation and hosting of this concert.

The Chamber Singers also performed a concert in the Dover City Hall Auditorium, featuring selections from Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Mass in G Minor* for double chorus and soloists. The program also included works by Bruckner, Augustinas, and the premiere of a new work for unaccompanied chorus by Alex T. Favazza, Jr. on the Walt Whitman poem "I Saw in Louisiana a Live Oak Growing."

For their second formal concert, UNH Concert Choir was fortunate to collaborate with the outstanding UNH Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Dr. David Upham. This concert featured guest artist soprano, Morgan Gale Beckford of Boston.



**Morgan Gale Beckford, soprano**

UNH Chamber Singers performed and recorded *Deck the Hall* with the UNH marketing film crew for President Dean's holiday greeting card, and were also featured at President Dean's State

of the University Address. The ensemble also had the unique pleasure of collaborating with Dr. Andrew Boysen, Jr. and the UNH Wind Symphony for the premiere for *Symphony No. 1* for winds, percussion, and voices by Michael Shun UNH M.A. '20.

The UNH Concert Choir and Chamber Singers' Spring Concert *Goodnight Moon* highlighted a short set of unaccompanied works by UNH professor Christopher Kies on texts by 19<sup>th</sup>-century New Hampshire poet Celia Thaxter. The concert also featured guest guitarist, Daniel Lorenz '19 on *The Lake Isle* by Ola Gjeilo and *Spring Rain* by Ēriks Ešenvalds. UNH Concert Choir and Chamber Singers are assisted by collaborative student pianist, Joseph Stevens, a senior BM Piano Performance major.

### Choral Gala

UNH Choral Activities hosted eight visiting schools for the annual Choral Gala. Guest clinicians Dr. Hillary Ridgley (Shenandoah Conservatory) conducted the Middle School Honor Choir and Dr. Andrew Minear (University of Alabama) conducted the High School Honor Choir, joined by the UNH Symphony Orchestra.

For more information about UNH Choral program, please visit the UNH Music Department website or contact Dr. Favazza directly: [alex.favazza@unh.edu](mailto:alex.favazza@unh.edu).

## ATHLETIC BANDS



**WMB 100 formed by current and alumni bands at Homecoming 2019 (credit Emily Shafritz)**

The Wildcat Marching Band had an exciting season building on the growth of the past several years to reach just under 125 members for the first time in decades. It became necessary to purchase some new instruments to accommodate the higher number of students, which is an exciting "problem" to have. The band also fielded what was likely the largest drumline in the band's history!

The WMB had a fantastic centennial celebration during the 2019–2020 school year, with nearly 100 band alumni (including former directors Tom Keck, Jeff Bolduc, Chris Humphrey, and Bill Reeve) returning to celebrate during Homecoming weekend. Many participated in the largest alumni band on record at the Homecoming football game, attended the post-game reception, played with the pep band at a hockey game, or simply came to visit the band over the course

of the weekend. The celebration continued with the band's performance in the 100th annual 6ABC/Dunkin' Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade. It was a very windy day but the band had a great time performing and interacting with the crowd, which, combined with the TV audience, was certainly the largest audience for whom the band has ever performed.

A small contingent from the band also stepped in at the last minute to perform in the Exeter Holiday Parade as the band "trumpeting" Santa's arrival. It was cold but some irreplaceable memories were formed!

Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced the WMB to cancel the much-anticipated trip to Ireland to perform in the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade just a few days before the scheduled departure. Nearly 100 current and former members of the band were

prepared to make the trip and it was terribly disappointing to have to cancel.

We are also pleased to announce that Director of Athletic Bands Casey Goodwin has been named to serve on the College Band Directors National Association Athletic Bands Committee.

To donate to the WMB to support future travel and other needs, please visit [giving.unh.edu/marchingband](http://giving.unh.edu/marchingband) and visit [bands.unh.edu](http://bands.unh.edu) for information about outreach and alumni events.



**Pep Band trumpet Rachel Coughlin  
Credit Alex Ellsworth**

### Beast of the East Pep Band

The Beast of the East Band continued the growth experienced over the past several years and was able to again support hockey, basketball, and other sports. Highlights of the season included performing at the men's soccer America East conference championship in November, the UNH Hockey Family Night dinner in January, and the women's ice hockey Hockey East semifinals in Merrimack in February.



**WMB Directors past and present. L to R Jeff Bolduc, Tom Keck, Casey Goodwin, Chris Humphrey, and Bill Reeve  
Credit Patricia Leonard**



## CONCERT BANDS

It was an enormous disappointment to students and faculty alike to have the year cut short by the coronavirus, losing the final concerts with all three bands. However, each of the ensembles was able to perform three concerts before that happened, including many unique and interesting experiences for the students. The Symphonic Band was conducted by Mark Zielinski this year, and performances included a wide variety of literature, from classic band works to recent compositions. The Concert Band was led by Casey Goodwin, and their highlights included the premiere of Paul Cravens's *From the Ashes*, commissioned by a consortium of ensembles led by UNH. Cravens completed his MA in composition at UNH in 2016 and is currently working as a full-time composer in Minnesota.

The Wind Symphony began the year with a concert entitled *Symphonies Old and New*. The concert opened with one of the first symphonies written for the modern concert band, H. Owen Reed's *La Fiesta Mexicana*, from 1949. It concluded with Andrew Boysen's *Symphony No. 10*, a work receiving only its second performance and its New Hampshire premiere. The November concert was vastly different, including a collection of works based on the concept of *Stories and Images*. The ensemble welcomed composer Paul Dooley to campus to spend a day

working with him to prepare his award-winning *Masks and Machines*. Dooley presently serves on the faculty of the University of Michigan and is a highly sought-after composer and clinician. In addition, the ensemble premiered a work that UNH commissioned from former faculty member Erika Svanoe. Entitled *Mary Shelley Meets Frankenstein*, the work is a tour de force for the ensemble, with wonderful solos for clarinet and baritone saxophone representing the two characters in Svanoe's imagined story. The premiere occurred at a special UNH Arts performance at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH.

The second semester began with a concert highlighted by the world premiere of graduate student Michael Shun's *Symphony No. 1*, a truly monumental contribution to the repertoire and a piece which stands as one of the few successful choral symphonies for the band. Special thanks go out to Professor Favazza and the Chamber Singers for their collaboration with the ensemble. The three movements of Shun's piece progress gradually from an introspective, personal opening toward a more outward-looking perspective in the final movement, with a message of hope about all that unites us as one. This was not intended to be the

final concert, but because of the pandemic it turned out to be a glorious way to end the year.

The final concert was to have featured the music of Erika Svanoe, former Director of Athletic Bands at UNH and present Director of Bands at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Svanoe has earned a reputation as one of the brightest young stars in band composition and the Wind Symphony had planned to record her music for winds as part of its twenty-year recording project. Hopefully, the recording will be rescheduled for a later date!

Finally, the concert bands were delighted to have the opportunity to work with five wonderful graduate students throughout the year: Emily Silva, Michael O'Connor, Dominick DeFrancisco, Kayla Burke, and Trevor Frost. All of these students will return to campus in the fall for continued work with the ensembles.



Graduate student  
Emily Silva



UNH Wind Symphony performing *Cave* by Russell Peck (l to r Kayla Burke, Taylor Hussey, and Michael O'Connor)

## JAZZ

Despite the shortened in-person experience this academic year, the jazz area had numerous performances from the students, and some great masterclasses and performances from guest artists that visited campus. The fall semester began with a clinic and performance from vocalist Roberta Gambarini. We also welcomed the Real Feels Trio to campus, led by trumpeter John Raymond and featuring Gilad Hekselman on guitar. In October, the program welcomed Cyrus Chestnut for a performance on the Traditional Jazz Series, while the jazz bands hosted Dr. Robert Washut as the annual composer-in-residence. Both jazz bands performed an entire concert of his music, including the sixth composition for the Seiler Commissioning Series, entitled *The Ring of Gyges*.



Melissa Aldana / credit Anna Yatskevich



Cyrus Chesnut



Jeff Coffin

In November, the 3 O'Clock Band welcomed trumpeter Eddie Allen as they shared the stage for a department showcase performance at the Palace Theater. Saxophonist Melissa Aldana was on campus for a clinic and performance on the Traditional Jazz Series. Grammy-winning saxophonist Jeff Coffin visited for a short residency, conducting several clinics for the students and working with both of the jazz bands in rehearsal. In December, both jazz bands welcomed trombonist/composer/arranger Paul McKee to town. Their winter concert included a set of McKee's music, featuring McKee as soloist on many of the compositions.

Dr. Jorgensen worked out an agreement with the Press Room in Portsmouth to feature the UNH Combos in concert November 2019. This proved to be a great partnership for all parties

involved. The students really enjoyed having the opportunity to play that stage and share their prepared sets for the audience.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we were unable to host the Clark Terry Jazz Festival this year. We look forward to returning next March for another great festival!



Paul McKee performs with UNH Jazz Bands:  
DeMarco Alvarez Leonardo '21 on piano



UNH Jazz Band December concert in Johnson Theatre



## Faculty News

### Michael Annicchiarico

In summer 2017 Our Big Band (a jazz band made up of several UNH alumni, including its director, Chris Klaxton ('07) recorded all the arrangements by Mike Annicchiarico of Wayne Shorter's music. After some starts and stops, the recordings are finally going to be released this summer. The first arrangement dates all the way back to 1983, so this is a "bucket list" item for Mike. He has also been at work on *The Reporter's War*, an opera in five scenes, taking a multi-faceted look at World War II. He hopes to complete Scene 5 this summer, then begin the task of editing and revising the score for possible productions.

### Robert Eshbach

During the summer of 2019, Robert Eshbach gave a paper at the Clara Schumann (née Wieck) and her World Bicentenary Conference at the University of Oxford, UK. In July, he also spoke on Clara Schumann and Joseph Joachim at the Sixth Biennial North American Conference on Nineteenth-Century Music, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In October, he gave a plenary address at the 2019 American Liszt Society Festival at Arizona State University in Tempe. His paper, "Murl Ali Pascha and the Karlsruhe Musikfest of 1853," for the *Joseph Joachim: Identities/Identitäten* International Bilingual Conference, at the Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe, Germany (April, 2020), has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. His chapter, "Carl Reinecke, Joseph Joachim und das Violinkonzert, op. 141," was published by Georg Olms Verlag in Germany. His extended article, "'For all are born to the ideal': Joseph Joachim and Bettina von Arnim" will be published later this year by *Music and Letters* (Oxford University Press). With Valerie Goertzen of Loyola University New Orleans, Eshbach is co-editing a volume of essays, *The Creative Worlds of Joseph Joachim*, under contract with

Boydell Press (UK). His article, "Joseph Joachim and the Bach Chaconne," will be published by *19<sup>th</sup>-Century Music*

*Review* (Cambridge University Press). He has been invited to contribute a chapter for the volume *Clara and Robert Schumann in Context* (Cambridge University Press), due out in 2020. Eshbach is also currently at work on a book, tentatively titled *Joseph Joachim and the Music of the Future*.

### Rob Haskins

Rob Haskins was elected as Interim Chair in October 2019. He continues his work at the *American Record Guide* and is in the beginning stages of a new research project on later keyboard music of J. S. Bach. He was elected to serve a three-year term as Chair beginning June 1.

### Nathan Jorgensen

Dr. Jorgensen started the fall semester by welcoming Dr. Jim Pisano to campus for a performance with the UNH Faculty Jazz Quintet in Johnson Theater and at the Press Room in Portsmouth. For his annual faculty recital, Jorgensen brought in his friends and colleagues from the Portland Jazz Orchestra to perform two sets of music in Johnson Theater. The sets featured Jorgensen on soprano and alto saxophones and showcased many of the other high level performers in the group. Jorgensen continues to keep an active performing schedule with the Portland Jazz Orchestra (Portland, ME) and the Capitol Jazz Orchestra (Concord, NH). This past December, Jorgensen was invited back to his home state of Kansas to direct the Northeastern District Honor Jazz Band for the Kansas Music Educators Association.

In one of the few bits of good news this spring, Dr. Jorgensen received confirmation that he has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. He would like to thank all of his colleagues for this vote of support and looks forward to many exciting years ahead for the saxophone studio and jazz program!

### Janet Polk

Janet Polk had an active 2019 summer of performances with DaPonte String Quartet for their Bach Festival in June as well as productions for Opera North

and Opera Maine. She continues as principal bassoon of both Portland Symphony and Vermont Symphony.

Bassoon Studio had its usual eclectic mix of activities including performing as an ensemble at the Student Chamber Ensemble concert and hosting alumni, Christopher Foss '13, for a reed-making seminar.

Double Reed Day returned on Saturday, February 1, 2020 after a one-year hiatus. Special guests for the day included Margaret Phillips with a session on contrabassoon and Alison Gangler demonstrating and performing on Baroque oboe. Double Reed Day 2021 will be held on Saturday, January 16.

In the Fall of 2020, Janet gave master classes to bassoonists at Littleton High School and Kearsarge Middle School and High School, as part of the UNH Department of Music Outreach program.

### David Ripley

David Ripley's recent performances include a final narration performance of *The Amazing Bone*, story by William Stieg and music by Christopher Kies, for the farewell recital of Professor Nicholas Orovich (April 2019), and the premier of Dan Bukvich's ... *and a sixteen piece band mounted on white horses*, with Andrew Boysen and the Wind Symphony. The stirring piece concerns the Battle of Little Bighorn and the death of George Armstrong Custer. This past fall Professor Ripley presented a program of American folk song devote to the New Hampshire Humanities Council's theme, "Democracy Now!" and later gave the program for Dr. Eshbach's class, Music and Social Change.

### Peggy Vagts

Peggy Vagts was on sabbatical leave during the 2019-2020 year. She continued to teach flute lessons and coach chamber music, and her sabbatical project was to edit several unpublished manuscripts by Catherine Urner (1891-1942).

Vagts performed the Bach triple concerto with White Mountain

Musical Arts Bach Festival, an all-Beethoven program with the Great Bay Philharmonic, and her annual recital in the fall. In January she coached the woodwind quintet at the New Hampshire All State Chamber Music Festival, and she was happy to visit seven New Hampshire high schools with the UNH Chamber Music Project.

As for the UNH flute studio ("Flutio"), a highlight of the year was the residency and recital of Robert Dick, who played a wide variety of his own compositions. Also inspiring was a master class given by alumna Jennifer Willis (UNH '12). Finally, in our surreal pandemic season, the Flutio rose to the occasion: since prospective students couldn't come to visit UNH, they invited prospective flutists to three informal (and fun!) Zoom meetings.

### Alumni News

#### Katherine Borst Jones '70



Katherine Borst Jones, professor of flute at The Ohio State University since 1985, was inducted into the Emporia State University (Kansas) Music Department Hall of Fame at a recent benefit concert in September. Jones taught flute and theory in the music department and played in the Mid-America Woodwind Quintet.

In October she and seventy OSU flute alums and current students joined The Ohio State University Marching Band for a half time performance of Stars and Stripes by Sousa. At the alumni dinner the night before, Jones was presented with the completion of an endowed scholarship, the Katherine Borst Jones Flute Scholarship in the School of Music. Cosmos Trio, with Borst Jones, flute, Jeanne Norton, harp and Mary E.M. Harris, viola was featured on the

WOSU American Premieres program hosted by Jennifer Hambrick during the Columbus Day weekend in October.

Borst Jones was recently presented with the Chicago Flute Club's Lifetime Achievement Award at a gala dinner. The Chicago Flute Club is one of the most active regional flute clubs in the nation. Its biennial festival attracts more than 350 attendees, 35 international artists and more than 35 industry representatives from all over the world. We are extremely grateful for Borst Jones's gift of \$400 to the music department, in honor of her 50th year from UNH.

#### Margaret Donoghue '83



Margaret Donoghue is a professor of clarinet, and director of the woodwind program at the University of Miami, as well as a chamber musician and arts administrator. She is a member of Pulse Trio, with whom she has performed across the United States and Europe. She is co-founder and Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Chamber Music Festival. After leaving UNH she received a masters degree from the University of Michigan and a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Illinois. She has also been on the faculties of the University of Connecticut and Central Michigan University. Read her recent [Spotlight](#) submission for more about her time at UNH and beyond.

#### Ernest Mills '87



Ernest Mills is currently Director of

Instrumental Music/Department Head of Performing Arts at Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach, FL. He teaches Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Rock Band, and Intro to Performing Arts. He was the Band Director at Kearsarge Regional High School for 25 years before moving to Florida. He first taught at Fort Pierce Magnet School of the Arts as a choir director and general music teacher. In February of 2015 he began his current position at Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach. Read his recent [Spotlight](#) submission for more about his time at UNH.

#### Betsy Meiman Parker '96



Betsy Meiman Parker is currently a Licensed Professional Counselor for CT Department of Corrections, working as a mental health clinician providing counseling to male inmates in a maximum security prison in Newtown, CT. She is really enjoying working with a diverse clinical population. Read Betsy's [Spotlight](#) submission.

#### Abigail Simoneau '11

Abigail Simoneau received her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in May 2020 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her DMA is in flute performance with a cognate in music theory; her dissertation is *Luening's Invention in Twelve Tones: Transcription and Max/MSP Patch for Performance by the Modern Flutist*. Abby received her master's degree in flute performance from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2013. She has been an adjunct instructor of music at Alamance Community College in Graham, North Carolina since 2015, teaching courses in music appreciation, critical thinking, woodwinds, and piano. She also teaches flute lessons at Guilford College.



### George Adams '12

George Adams earned his PhD in Music History and Music Theory from the University of Chicago in July 2019. His dissertation, "Listening to Conceptual Music: Technology, Culture, Analysis," draws from the fields of art history and literary theory. Adams has recently presented this and other research into sound, technology, voice, performer agency, and music analysis at national and international conference meetings of the Society for Music Theory, the Society for American Music, and the Society for Minimalist Music. He is currently the Lindsay Family Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Department of Music and the College at the University of Chicago, where he teaches courses in music history, music theory, and the Media Aesthetics sequence, and supervises research projects in the humanities and social sciences for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program.

### Amanda Morgan '12



Amanda Morgan is in her sixth year as a music educator, during which she has worked in three different districts with positions ranging from a long-term substitute to a full time employee. She has found her home at Woodbury Middle School in Salem, NH. Her teaching responsibilities have included elementary general music, beginning band, elementary chorus, middle school band, middle school chorus, middle school general music, high school band, high school chorus, music theory, jazz band, organizing a ukulele club and coaching drama clubs.

### Amanda Roswick '18



Amanda Roswick has just graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies. She was selected as the Graduate Outstanding Vocal Jazz Soloist for *DownBeat Magazine* this past spring. [Read more about Amanda's UNH journey here.](#)

### Kathryn Curtis '19

Kathryn has accepted a position as elementary music teacher at the Stratham Memorial School, Stratham, NH.

### Carla Boyle-Wight '20



Carla will be teaching K-5 music and choir in Bennington, Vermont beginning this fall. [Read more about Carla's UNH journey here.](#)

### Emma Eafrazi '20

Emma will be teaching middle school band, chorus, and general music in Goffstown, NH beginning this fall.

### Justin Leach '20



Justin Leach graduated this year with BM in Music Performance and an IT minor. He is currently planning to use his IT background to secure a programming position and return to the gigging world as soon as the pandemic allows. He is considering graduate school for 2021. [Read more about Justin's UNH journey here.](#)

### Colleen Macdonald '20



Colleen hopes to pursue a career teaching music in a classroom setting or through private lessons. Her long-term goal is to create a Children's Community Music Program that will provide children the opportunity to perform and learn about advanced music outside of the traditional school day, with peers from the surrounding area. [Read more about Colleen's UNH journey here.](#)

### Camden Ward '20



Camden will be starting a Master of Music degree in Woodwind Performance at Boston University this fall. [Read more about Camden's UNH journey here.](#)

### MEET JACOB PIERSON '21

#### The Clarinetist and the Fox Suit



Jake Pierson ('21) is a Music Education major, studying clarinet under the guidance of Dr. Elizabeth Gunlogson. This past semester he was the winner of the annual Department of Music Concerto Competition and will be the featured soloist with the UNH Symphony Orchestra. This concert was to have happened at the end of April but will now likely take place in the fall. I recently caught up with Jake to find out about his UNH experience, the Concerto Competition, remote learning, and what comes next for him.

#### Why did you choose to study at UNH?

The main reason is because Dr. Gunlogson is such a great teacher. She is so friendly and knowledgeable; I learned so much from her just from my twenty-minute audition that I could not imagine what we could do in an hour! Also being in a wind symphony rehearsal was so fun and everyone was so nice and welcoming.

#### What insight have you gained in working with Professor Gunlogson?

One of the most important lessons from Dr. G was the three things that make up a professional player: fundamentals, fundamentals, and fundamentals! Not one lesson goes by where we do not

address something such as breathing, air support, embouchure, scales, tonguing, hand position, phrasing, the list goes on! Also that we have to accept that we are not going to sound great every day—that's just how it is. Sometimes it's you and sometimes it's not.

#### What has been your favorite class so far?

My favorite class so far has to be Elementary Methods with Sue Noseworthy. The class is so fun and interesting. I never understood the importance of elementary level music and its impact until I took this class.

#### Do you have any favorite UNH memories you would like to share?

Freshman year, a group of us were in the Eaton Hall lounge.

I was walking back from throwing the trash out, and I saw my friend Kaylee by the door so I waved to open the door. She then proceeded to cover her mouth and point behind me, so naturally I turned around and saw a man in a fox suit running at me. So I frantically swiped my ID and in the process let three of these people into Eaton where they caused chaos and stole our ice cream. This is a story I will tell my future grandchildren to describe college.

#### What is your philosophy for maintaining a positive outlook as a music student?

Just keep swimming, eventually you will reach 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney, and right around the corner the Sydney Opera house!

#### How have you adjusted to remote learning?

The change to remote learning is an adventure. College classes and lessons have been ok, but teaching lessons to 5th graders has been quite the time. Not one Friday goes by where someone doesn't log on, they are easily distracted, or the camera falls behind the desk and they have to call their dad to come get it. It's a fun time overall.

**You were the winner of this year's Concerto Competition. Unfortunately, the performance has been postponed. Could you tell us what you will be playing, why you chose it, and what your preparation for the audition was like?**

I will be playing the first movement of the Mozart *Clarinet Concerto in A major*, K. 622. It's such a beautiful piece of music and it's so fun to play! It was composed later in Mozart's life so it has that romantic drama with classical elegance. The preparation was a lot of work; a lot of hours went into this piece. While the piece isn't too technically demanding, expression, phrasing, color, and many other things needed to be perfect. Repetition was key for building endurance. I do try to change things up a little bit to personalize it now and then. The audition itself was not that bad. Did I mess up a little? Yes, but I try not to let mistakes bother the rest of the performance. We are performing art, not a math test!

#### What is one piece of advice you would like to give your underclassmen self?

You're not going to be perfect 100% of the time; just accept that mistakes happen and don't be so hard on yourself. Also, its 3:00 AM—go to bed.

#### What are your plans after graduation next year?

My plans after UNH are to go right into grad school for performance and pedagogy, then teach in the public school districts either in Massachusetts or New Hampshire. It depends upon job availability but I would prefer middle school. If I audition and none of the offers are great, I plan on teaching for a year or two, developing my playing skills, and auditioning for grad school again. The end goal for me is a college position as a clarinet teacher and a music education course or two. I also love conducting, though, so maybe an ensemble? I'm very open to whatever the future holds, I feel that I'll be happy wherever I end up.

*Excerpted interview by Adam Gallant, UNH Department of Music Equipment Manager, Music Librarian, and Outreach Coordinator.*



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