

FIRST FRIDAY NEWS

A Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 academic year at Bower School of Music & the Arts. As your new Director I am honored to work with outstanding roster of award winning faculty and exceptional administrative staff. Together we are here to serve a diverse and well-rounded student body where we change lives through the power of the arts.

As we embark on a new academic year we look forward to our new 2019-2020 artistic season. We are proud to share with you our exciting schedule of musical performances, theater plays, art exhibits, and special events taking place on our campus. Every event promises new discoveries and fresh perspectives for our audiences and transformational learning opportunities for our students. The outstanding level of talent, boldness of creative vision and variety of exceptional performances strengthen our reputation as a place of artistic and academic excellence.

None of this would be possible without tireless work of our exceptional faculty and staff who always go the extra mile to inspire, create and perform. Thank you for being an integral part of our artistic journey as we offer world-class cultural enrichment for the Southwest Florida community and beyond. I also would like to express my appreciation and thank all of our donors and community members for their ongoing support of our programs. Their generosity is fundamental to the success of our students and the mission of Bower School of Music & the Arts.

We look forward to an inspiring new chapter in our artistic, academic and personal lives. I would like to wish everyone a healthy, exciting and productive year that is filled with rich artistic experiences, life changing educational opportunities and meaningful personal connections.

Go Eagles!

Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki, Director
Bower School of Music & the Arts



Alumni and Student News

Congratulations to **Yasmani Gonzalez** ('17, Music) on receiving the 2019 Yale Music Educator of the Year Award. He was nominated by Lynn Tuttle, Director for Public Policy, Research, and Professional Development at NAFME. He was one of five music educators in the country to receive the award - recognizing their service to music education in public schools. The award also came with the opportunity to take part in a national symposium hosted by Yale, aiming to make music education accessible to all students. As an award recipient, he was one of 45 music practitioners from the across the country asked to participate in the symposium - aiming to sketch and prepare policy and legislation that will hopefully place music at the forefront and reimagine the role of our music ecosystem.

Paula Alva Garcia (senior, Music) recently performed at Teatro Víctor Raúl Lozano Ibáñez at the Universidad Privada Antenor Orrego.



(clockwise from top left) Yasmani Gonzalez being presented his award; Paula Alva Garcia (to the right of the lead Rossina, Josefina de Brivio); Arienne Fort in *The Mikado*

Arienne Fort (senior, Music) played mezzo lead of Katisha in the Opera Naples Summer Gilbert and Sullivan Youth production of the *The Mikado* June 21-22 at the Wang Opera Center in Naples.

August Events

August 19-September 5

Global Sustainable Design; ArtLab in the west side of the Library building, FGCU

This exhibition is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

More information can be found at fgcu.edu/artgalleries

Thursday, August 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Global Sustainable Design reception; ArtLab in the west side of the Library building, FGCU; This event is free and open to the public

More information can be found at fgcu.edu/artgalleries

Thursday, August 29 at 5:00 p.m.

Open to Interpretation: Selections from the Permanent Collection opening reception; Wasmer Art Gallery, Arts Complex, FGCU; This event is free and open to the public

More information can be found at fgcu.edu/artgalleries

August 30-October 3

Open to Interpretation: Selections from the Permanent Collection; Wasmer Art Gallery, Arts Complex, FGCU

This exhibition is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

More information can be found at fgcu.edu/artgalleries

For the most up-to-date information, visit www.fgcu.edu/CAS/BSMA

A piece from *Open to Interpretation: Selections from the Permanent Collection*



Anne Lindberg, "Twilight Garden Blue", 1988, Fabric and ink, 44 x 48 in, Gift of ASG Technologies, Collection of FGCU Art Galleries



Congratulations to **Whitney Johnson** ('14, Music) on achieving her Master's in Educational Leadership from Northcentral University.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the *First Friday News*, or if you have information about the work being done by our alumni, please feel free to contact Joanna Hoch, Events Coordinator, by email at jhoch@fgcu.edu.

CHILDREN'S PIANO CLASS

Enrollment is underway for students in the Beginning Piano Class to be held weekly during the 2019-2020 academic year at the Bower School of Music & the Arts.

BEGINNING PIANO CLASS DESCRIPTION

What: Children's piano study includes fundamental music skills with emphasis on music-making, singing and music literacy. Weekly performance in class builds student confidence and provides a creative and joyful environment for musical growth. Children participate in an end of the term recital for their families.

When: Fall semester - 4:30-5:30pm, Thursdays, beginning September 5, 2019, 12 classes; no class October 17th & Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28th.
Spring semester - 4:30-5:30pm, Thursdays, beginning January 9th. 12 classes; no class March 5th.

Where: Bower School of Music Piano laboratory, Music Modular Building, Room 101

Who: Taught by Professor Joanne A. Smith, assisted by college students enrolled in Piano Pedagogy 1 & II.

PREREQUISITES FOR PARTICIPATION

- Students who will be entering 2nd and 3rd grade in the fall term of 2019, possess fluent reading ability for their grade level, and have had no previous piano instruction. Enrollment is limited.
- Participation in a Musical Aptitude and Readiness Test with Professor Joanne Smith on Thursday, August 22nd. Parent or guardian in attendance. Time to be arranged.
- Access to a full size piano for daily practice (with 88 weighted keys and pedals)
- Commitment to daily practice and regular class attendance.

Parents interested in scheduling an August 22nd appointment for Readiness Testing should e-mail Professor Smith at joannes@umich.edu.

Parent Orientation for students selected for the class will take place Thursday, Aug. 29th, 5:00pm. (Adults only)

Cost: \$550 per term. FGCU faculty and staff receive a \$50. discount for a total of \$500. Upon acceptance into this class (based on the Music Aptitude and Readiness Test), full payment is due at the first class, payable by check to FGCU.

Feel free to contact Professor Smith via e-mail if you have questions or need more information.

Professor Joanne A. Smith
joannes@umich.edu



Michael Baron (Music) traveled for a month to Bolivia and Peru where he gave multiple recitals and masterclasses in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Sucre, La Paz, Bolivia, and Lima, Huanuco, Tarapoto, Trujillo, Peru. Photos above are in the Casa de la Libertad in Bolivia (left) and at the National Conservatory of Peru in Lima (right).