

FIRST FRIDAY NEWS

A Letter from the Director

As we reach the conclusion of another academic year, it is exciting to note that our vision continues to unfold. Across art, theater and music, lives have changed. The arts, grounded in aesthetic expression, have provide us with a means by which to express that which is human in the best possible way. Indeed, students, faculty and patrons alike have are frequently left with a sense of 'words cannot describe' as the power of the arts are felt in the moment. Life changes are also evident among our graduates this year, now with new directions built upon their education here at FGCU. From the art studio to the gallery, form the rehearsal stage to the theater, from the practice room to the performance hall, the Bower School of Music & the Arts has changed lives. Let us celebrate what has been accomplished!

Dr. Michael Rohrbacher
Interim Director, Bower School of Music & the Arts

Final Storytelling Slam of 2018-2019

This year, the Wasmer Art Gallery, in partnership with the FGCU Creative Writing Community, has hosted a series of storytelling slams. The final slam was on April 24 and featured a backdrop of the artwork of *Senior Projects, Spring 2019*. Each evening had a theme, and the 5-7 minute stories were then judged and prizes were awarded.



Final Storytelling Slam in the Wasmer Art Gallery

BSM Students Top Competition Again

The Southwest Florida Symphony Prescott Competition was recently held at the Bower School of Music, and Music majors once again topped the bill. 45 musicians competed for a cash prize and a performance with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra next season. The overall winner was **Arturo Fernandez** (freshman, Music). In the vocal category, **Sommer Senne** (junior, Music) took home first place, with **Arienne Fort** (senior, Music), **Nicole Kimmel** (junior, Music) and **Lilian Hsu** (junior, Music) as runner-ups. Congratulations to all who competed and to their studio teachers.



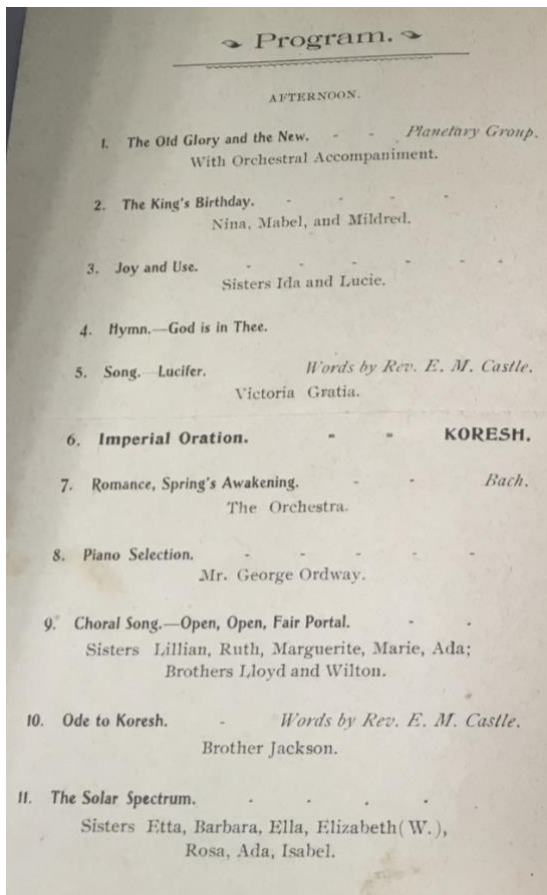
(clockwise from top) Arturo Fernandez; Sommer Senne with **Karin White** (adjunct Music); **Jeanie Darnell** (Music) with Lilian Hsu; Nicole Kimmel with Jeanie Darnell; Arienne Fort

Focus On...

With another year behind us, we have decided to dedicate a new section of the *First Friday News* to a feature about some of the members of the BSM&A family. In the inaugural article, you will meet Gabrielle "Gabie" Goral, a junior Music major whose goal is to become the top musicologist in the world. The following is just some of the exciting work she has been, and will be doing, in her own words.

"Over the past two semesters, I have been working as a Research Assistant to **Dr. Cimarusti** [Music].

Last semester (Fall 2018) I was assigned to digitizing the Koreshan festival programs in the Archives, Special Collections in the FGCU Library. They had two annual festivals: the Solar Festival on October 18th, celebrating Cyrus Teed's (leader of the Koreshan Unity, also known as Koresh) birthday and the Lunar Festival on April 10th, which celebrated the birthday of Annie G. Ordway, one of the earliest followers of Koresh who served as the first President of the Koreshan Unity. The program for these festivals typically involved prayers, scripture readings, music, plays, and other readings of their beliefs. Our goal is to one day recreate one of these festivals.



Detail from program for the Annual Solar Festival in celebration of the 63rd Anniversary of the birth of Koresh, October 18, 1902

This semester (Spring 2019), I have been reading through the *Guiding Star* and documenting references to music

Focus On... (continued)

and musical performance. This publication, the first of the four published periodicals by the Koreshan Unity, ran monthly from December 1886 - April 1889 while the Koreshans were still in Chicago, IL before they traveled down here to Estero, FL. There are 29 issues of the *Guiding Star*. There is not too many references to music and musical performance, but when there are references music it is evident that they held music to a high standard.

Dr. Cimarusti and I received the Communities in Transition (CIT) Grant to continue our work with the Koreshan materials over the summer. We are hoping to complete the work before our trip to Italy.

A group of 7-9 students and Dr. Cimarusti will be traveling to Italy July 7th-17th. We will be going to Milan, Florence, Naples, and attending five operas, one of which will be at the La Scala Opera House in Milan!!

I have been doing some personal research on the modality of the music in *Super Mario Galaxy* creating a sense of place. This was originally an assignment for Music History II in Fall 2018. This semester, I have presented my research at two conferences. The first was back in February at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, FL. The Florida Undergraduate Research Conference (FURC) is a regional conference where **Emily Dunn** [senior, Music] and I gave poster board presentations on our research that we had done the previous semester. Of the 400 student poster boards, Emily and I were 2 of the 5 music related topics.

The second conference was on April 12 at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA. The National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) is a national conference where I gave an oral presentation. As nervous as I was and as stressful as it all was, the whole experience was one that I surely will not forget, especially because my parents, who flew down from WI, were able to be there! Dr. Cimarusti and my boyfriend were also able to be there to support me.

I am truly blessed and grateful for all the opportunities that I've had and hope to continue having at FGCU!"



(left to right) Gabie Goral presenting at NCUR at Kennesaw State University; Emily Dunn and Gabie Goral at FURC at the University of North Florida

Around the BSM&A



(left to right) Liliana Garlisi, Lisa Hamman, Madison Fullerton and Adrienne Fort

Liliana Garlisi (senior, Music), **Lisa Hamman** (junior, Music), **Madison Fullerton** (junior, Music) and **Arienne Fort** (senior, Music) performed at the Celebration of Excellence ceremony on April 19. Arienne sang the FGCU Alma Mater, Madison sang the *Habanera* from *Carmen* and Lisa sang John Jacob Niles' *The Wild Rider*. All were accompanied by Liliana on the piano.

Dan Bacalzo (Theatre) was recently interviewed for a piece in Florida Weekly about college theatre. [The full article can be found here.](#)

Caitlyn Walters (freshman, Music) has been selected to participate in Opera Viva this summer in Verona, Italy.

Paul Berlinsky (senior, Music) was recently featured in Estero Life Magazine. [The article can be found online here.](#)

Anne Carncross (Theatre) and **Elana Deutch** (senior, Theatre) were featured in FGCU360 for their work on sustainability within the Theatre productions. [The full article can be found here.](#)



(left to right) Elana Deutch and Anne Carncross in TheatreLab

Around the BSM&A, continued



(left to right) Ricardo River, Jeanie Darnell, Marlina Karimi

Jeanie Darnell (Music) and Robin Shuford Frank (adjunct Music) recently visited the backstage of *Carmen* at Opera Naples. **Ricardo River** (sophomore, Music) and **Marlina Karimi** ('18, Music), **Paula Alva Garcia** (junior, Music) and **Arienne Fort** (senior, Music) were all members of the cast.



(left to right) Paula Alva Garcia, Robin Shuford Frank, Arienne Fort

Dan Bacalzo (Theatre) presented a paper entitled "Empathy and Environment in the Jungle" at the Comparative Drama Conference in Orlando on April 6, and participated in a roundtable entitled "Building Collaborative Online Resources for Asian American Theater, Drama, and Performance Studies" at the Association for Asian American Studies in Madison, WI on April 25.



Dan Bacalzo presenting at the Comparative Drama Conference

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.