

PIANO STUDY

AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE

The Music Department at St. Olaf College provides aspiring musicians with a variety of training and performing opportunities that prepare them for the challenges of this rich artistic pursuit. Private lessons, course work, and ensemble participation are designed to nurture the growth of young performers in an environment of artistry, creativity, cooperation, support, and respect. Music majors and non-majors are welcome to the following:

LESSONS AND COURSEWORK

Each semester, approximately 120 St. Olaf students take private lessons from one of the seven piano faculty members. Both classical and jazz piano are offered. Instruction in piano for music majors and non-music majors is offered in private weekly half-hour or hour lessons.

St. Olaf also offers courses in collaborative piano, piano literature and piano pedagogy, which focuses on methods and materials of piano teaching and includes an opportunity to teach. The January Interim term and the programs of independent study and research provide opportunities to create projects that fulfill individual needs and interest. Music majors may elect an interim or full semester abroad, offerings include programs in Milan or Vienna specifically designed for music majors.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Piano students have the opportunity to perform as soloists in solo recitals, group recitals, the St. Olaf Piano Forum, and studio classes. Pianists interested in collaborative performance have many opportunities to perform with instrumentalists and vocalists in recitals or juries. In addition, the large ensembles (orchestras, bands, choirs) frequently perform repertoire on campus or on tours which requires a pianist. The large ensembles frequently feature student soloists on concert programs, tour programs and in the St. Olaf Orchestra's annual Senior Soloists concert in May.

FACILITIES

Christiansen Hall of Music, completed in 1976, houses Urness Recital Hall, classrooms, teaching studios and practice rooms as well as three large rehearsal halls and the Halvorson Music Library. There are additional practice rooms in Ytterboe Hall, and the adjacent Skifter Hall houses organ practice rooms, studios, and a second recital hall. All practice rooms contain pianos, and those with grand pianos are reserved for piano majors. St. Olaf employs a full-time piano technician who maintains the 130 pianos on campus from his shop in the music building.

FACULTY

KATHRYN ANANDA-OWENS, *Associate Professor of Music: Piano*. B.A., Oberlin College (Phi Beta Kappa); B.M., Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Pi Kappa Lambda); M.M., Peabody Conservatory of Music; D.M.A., Peabody Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Julian Martin. Previous teachers include Robert McDonald and Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein, in addition to Earl Carlyss and Ellen Mack for chamber music, and summer studies with Sergei Babayan and Paul Schenly. Winner of first prize in the 1993 Neale-Silva Young Artists Competition, Ananda-Owens enjoys an active career as performer, teacher, and lecturer. A laureate of the American Pianists Association Biennial Fellowship Competition, she made her Asian debut in 1997 under the auspices of the government of Macao. Her European debut took place the following year in Vienna. Ananda-Owens has appeared as a soloist with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, toured internationally with the St. Olaf Orchestra, and collaborated with flutist Alison Potter in performances at Lincoln Center. A founding member of the New Horizons Chamber Ensemble, Dr. Ananda-Owens performed for nearly a decade as the pianist of the Melius Trio, has recorded with violinist Hector Valdivia, and collaborated with members of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra in the inaugural concerts of the North American Bridge Festival. Her concerts have been broadcast on radio and television on three continents. An expert on the keyboard cadenzas of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, she is currently at work on a book on the subject. Ananda-Owens is actively involved with the Performing Arts Medical Association, and serves on the association's education committee. She has been a member of the St. Olaf College faculty since 1997.

CHRISTOPHER ATZINGER, *Assistant Professor of Music: Piano*. B.M. Piano Performance, University of Texas at Austin; M.M. Piano Performance, The University of Michigan, D.M.A. Piano Performance, Peabody Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Julian Martin and Robert McDonald. Other teachers include Anton Nel, David Renner, and Carolyn Lipp, in addition to collaborative studies with Timothy Lovelace. A native of Jackson, Michigan, Atzinger has performed in Austria, Italy, France, Spain and Canada in addition to performances in the United States highlighted by concerts in New York at Carnegie Hall (Weill), New York University, St. Paul's Chapel, Liederkrantz Hall; in Chicago at the Dame Myra Hess Series; and in Washington, D.C. at the Phillips Collection. His artistry has also been broadcast on Chicago's *Live from WFMT*, *Live from FM 91* on WGTE (Toledo), Minnesota and Wisconsin Public Radio, and WGBH (Boston). He has performed at the Banff International Keyboard Festival, Brevard Music Festival, and the Chautauqua Institution, in addition to giving lectures and masterclasses across the county. His debut recording was recently released on the MSR Classics label. A medalist of the New Orleans International Piano Competition, the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati, and the Nina Plant Wideman International Piano Competition, Atzinger has been praised by critics for his "personal interpretive vision" and "virtuoso aplomb". He was also winner of the 2005 National Federation of Music Clubs Artist Competition and the *Premio Città di Ispica* prize at the IBLA Grand Prize Competition in Ragusa-Ibla, Italy. Additionally, he has received honors from the Frinna Awerbuch International Piano Competition, the National Society of Arts and Letters, and MTNA. He has received grants and fellowships from the Theodore Presser Foundation, the American Composers Forum, Foundation La Gesse, and the Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation.

ANDREW HISEY *Associate Professor of Music: Piano*. Dr. Hisey teaches studio and group piano at St. Olaf, where he also serves as Music Department Vice Chair. Prior to relocating to Minnesota, he was a member of the faculty at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio from 1994 to 2005. He holds degrees in piano from Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada, and from The University of Michigan, where he was the first to receive the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano pedagogy and performance. As a pedagogy specialist, Dr. Hisey is very involved in various aspects of keyboard education. He frequently gives lectures and workshops to piano teachers, is an active performer, and has served as judge for numerous competitions. He has a special love for and has performed most of the piano and chamber music of Dmitri Shostakovich. He is one of the founding directors of the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum, and served as series editor for the 27-volume *Composer Editions* repertoire anthologies (2002-2008) published by the Frederick Harris Music Company. Dr. Hisey is also editor of the 8-volume *Christopher Norton: Connections for Piano*, and co-author of the accompanying *Activities* books for students. Dr. Hisey is a senior examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music Examinations (Canada) and for the National Music Certificate Program (USA).

KENT MCWILLIAMS, *Associate Professor of Music*. B.M. and M.M. in Piano Performance, University of Toronto; Artist Diploma, Stuttgart Musikhochschule, Germany; D.M.A., University of Montreal. Pianist Kent McWilliams has enjoyed a successful performing career since his debut in Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto with conductor Kazuhiro Koizumi and the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra. After a recent appearance as soloist with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, the music critic exclaimed, "McWilliams' performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 was nothing less than a triumph". He has played in over a dozen countries, and has been an award winner at the competitions of Porto (Portugal), the Regina Symphony, the Canadian Music competitions and the Canadian National Competitive Festival of Music. McWilliams has three recent CD releases to his credit. As part of the Meridian Trio, he recorded a CD entitled *Triptyque* on the Furiant label; as the pianist for the Niagara Brass Ensemble, he recorded a CD entitled *Brass Feast* on the Echiquier label; as a solo pianist he was part of the 14 disc recording project of *The Celebration Series: A Piano Odyssey* released by Frederick Harris. He has also played frequently for radio, having performed live recitals on the CBC in Canada and the ABC in Australia. McWilliams had a chance to live in Poland for a year, where he studied with Andrzej Jasinski and researched the Polish folk elements in Chopin's Mazurkas and Polonaises. McWilliams joined the faculty at St. Olaf after having previously held teaching positions at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada and at the Glenn Gould Professional School in Toronto. Also active as a clinician, he has presented performance and pedagogy workshops across North America.

NANCY PADDLEFORD, *Professor of Music: Piano*. B.M. and M.M., Indiana University; D.M.A. University of Minnesota. Her teachers have included Gyorgy Sebok, Alfonso Montecino and Bernhard Weiser, and she has studied chamber music with Janos Starker, Joseph Gingold, William Primrose and Franco Gulli. Active as chamber and solo recitalist as well as adjudicator at piano competitions in the United States and Central America, Paddleford's teaching areas include piano performance, chamber music, music appreciation, theory skills and piano pedagogy. Her research emphases have been Hispanic music, performance practice, and memorization techniques. Paddleford has served as artist-in-residence at the University of Costa Rica, has performed twice at the International Festival of Music in Costa Rica as well as three times at that country's Monteverde Music Festival. She is the recipient of the Pro Lingua Award for promoting cross-cultural understanding between the U.S. and Latin America, and was asked to give a St. Olaf

Mellby Lecture about her scholarly work. A number of her performances and interviews have been broadcast on radio here and abroad.

LAURA CAVIANI, *Instructor in Music: Jazz Piano*. B.M. Composition, Lawrence University, where she studied with Fred Sturm and Rodney Rogers, M.M. in Improvisation, The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where she co-taught and studied with Ed Sarath and bass legend Reggie Workman. The Minneapolis Star Tribune hailed her debut recording, *Dreamlife*, as: "...in a word, outstanding". Marian McPartland found it "...sparkling and inventive". Her second release, *As One*, nominated for a 1999 Minnesota Music Award, was touted as "stunningly fresh" by Jazz Times. Her holiday album, *Angels We Haven't Heard*, was considered "this season's finest new jazz CD of holiday music" by the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Caviani has performed and recorded with Concord recording artist and vocalist Karrin Allyson, and has toured with the Concord Jazz Festival featuring Oleta Adams, Diane Schuur and Sara Gazarek. Locally, she has performed with many fine artists in the Twin Cities, including: Lucia Newell, Pete Whitman's Xtet, Prudence Johnson, Debbie Duncan, among others. Her compositions include numerous works for jazz ensembles, the Sax Quartet JazzAx, as well as orchestral works for both the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra and the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra. Caviani has extensive teaching experience, including St. John's University, the Universities of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and Stevens Point, The University of St. Thomas, and many middle schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul through the "Harman How to Listen Program", an outreach program co-founded by Wynton Marsalis.

LORI RONNING FOLLAND, *Staff Pianist* B.M., Oberlin and M.M., University of Michigan, is Ensemble Pianist at St. Olaf College. Prior to her appointment in 1991, she served as pianist for the string department at Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh). She has appeared on numerous chamber music series in the Midwest and eastern United States and in Canada. In recital, she has collaborated with members of the Minnesota Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, including PSO concertmaster Adres Cardenes. As a chamber musician, her live performances have been recorded for broadcast on WQED-FM, Pittsburgh. Ms. Folland maintains a private piano studio and has served on the faculty of St. Olaf Summer Music Camp and the Lutheran Summer Music Program.

JOHN JENSEN, *Staff Pianist*. B.A. Occidental College (CA), M.M. University of Southern California. Formerly active as a free-lance keyboard artist in Los Angeles, Mr. Jensen served as Artist-in-Residence at Grinnell College, and spent fifteen years there with the Mirecourt Piano Trio. He moved to the Twin Cities area in 1990, where he has been in demand as a chamber music partner and free-lance player as well as performing with the Minnesota Orchestra and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He also serves as Music Director for the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis.