

WOODWIND STUDY AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE

The St. Olaf College Music Department 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 100 St. Olaf students take private lessons from one of the six professional woodwind faculty, each specialists on their instrument. Instruction in flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and saxophone for music majors and non-music majors is offered in private weekly half-hour or hour lessons.

St. Olaf also offers courses in literature and pedagogy, which focus on methods of teaching and include opportunities to teach. In addition, 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 semester abroad, offerings include programs in Milan or Vienna specifically designed for music majors.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Woodwind students have the opportunity to perform as soloists in solo recitals, group recitals, and studio classes. Chamber music opportunities exist for woodwind ensembles of various instrumentation. 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.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

In addition to solo and chamber performance opportunities, St. Olaf offers outstanding instrumental experiences in groups of many types and sizes. All ensembles are open to students of any major.

The **ST. OLAF ORCHESTRA**, a full symphony orchestra which performs throughout the year on campus and takes annual national tours. The St. Olaf Orchestra also tours internationally on a regular basis. Open by audition to all students.

The **PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA**, a full symphony orchestra which performs on campus throughout the year. Open by audition to all students.

The **ST. OLAF BAND**, 90-piece symphonic band which performs on campus in concerts and ceremonial settings, such as opening convocation, commencement and Baccalaureate. The St. Olaf Band takes a national tour every year, and internationally on a regular basis as well. Open by audition to all students.

The **NORSEMAN BAND**, which performs a variety of symphonic band literature in several concerts each year. Open by audition to all students.

The **VALHALLA BAND**, a student-directed ensemble offering a less-intense rehearsal and performance schedule. Open to all interested students.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES – Three jazz ensembles are open by audition to all students and perform a wide variety of jazz literature. Each ensemble performs in a swing dance and concert setting each semester.

VIRTUOSI CHAMBER WINDS – (spring semester only) Open by audition to all students. The purpose of the group is to explore the important repertoire of wind chamber music for eight to thirteen players.

The **FLUTE CHOIR** – open to all interested flutists

The **CLARINET CHOIR** – open to all interested clarinetists.

WOODWIND ENSEMBLES – small ensembles are open to all interested students.

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.

FACULTY

JUN QIAN, *Assistant Professor of Music*: Clarinet. B.M., Baylor University; M.M., Performer's Certificate; D.M.A., Eastman School of Music. Principal teachers include Kenneth Grant, Stanley Hasty, Richard A Shanley, Jingli Hong, and Peng Gu. Qian has been on the clarinet faculty at Nazareth College, Houghton College, New York State University at Fredonia, music theory teacher at Eastman, chamber music teacher at Shanghai Conservatory of Music in China, and the principal clarinetist of Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1997, he won both first prize for the Orchestral Excerpts Competition and third prize in the Solo Competition at the International Clarinet Association Young Artist Competition, second prize in the Texas Young Artist Competition, and first prize in the Baylor Symphony 1998 Concerto Competition. He appeared as concerto soloist with Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Eastman Chamber Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic, Xiamen Philharmonic, Baylor Symphony Orchestra and Shangyang Opera Orchestra. In 2001 made his Carnegie Hall debut performing Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 1 with the Asian American International Orchestra. International appearances as principal clarinetist also include the Eastman Wind Ensemble's tours of Asia in 2000 and 2004, the North Carolina Festival Orchestra's European tour, the Kent-Blossom Music Festival, National Orchestra Institute, and the American Wind Symphony. In October 2004 he was the featured soloist at the International Performing Arts Festival in Japan, and he has appeared on National Public Radio's "Performance Today" with the Grammy-awarded Ying Quartet. His activities in 2006 as a teacher and performer included a clarinet recital at Paris, France, conducting the Nazareth/Houghton Clarinet Choir as part of International Clarinet Choir Festival, and giving master classes throughout China and Malaysia. His CD, *Premiere Rhapsodie*, and video *Playing the Clarinet* were released on the Nanjing Shine Horn label in China.

CATHERINE RAMIREZ, *Assistant Professor of Music*: Flute. B.A. Occidental College; Honors Diploma Boccherini Music Institute (Italy); M.A. flute performance Queens College; M.M., Yale University School of Music; D.M.A. (ABD) at Rice University. Her major teachers include Melissa Colgin-Abeln, Gary Woodward, Marzio Conti, Tara Helen O'Connor, Ransom Wilson and Leone Buyse. Ms. Ramirez made her New York recital debut in 2000 and has performed as a soloist and chamber musician at the Teatro del Giglio in Italy, Salt Lake City's Temple Square, the Chicago Cultural Center, Merkin Concert Hall, Symphony Space, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, and at the Kennedy Center. Orchestral highlights as a principal flutist include performances with conductor Larry Rachleff, violinist Cho-Liang Lin and soprano Renee Fleming. Winner of the Sallie Shepherd Perkins Prize for Best Achievement from the Rice University Shepherd School of Music, Ramirez has gained recognition for her performances of both classical and contemporary music, as well as for her teaching. In addition to serving as an advocate for music education through outreach endeavors, she has been a guest artist/clinician at Brigham Young University, New Mexico State University, University of Utah and the University of Texas at El Paso.

JILL MAHR, *Instructor in Music*: Flute. B.M. flute performance and music education with a jazz minor, University of Minnesota; Duluth. M. M. flute performance, Northwestern University, where she studied with Walfrid Kujala of the Chicago Symphony. Ms. Mahr has served on the flute faculty at Minnesota State University in Mankato, and currently serves on the music faculty at Carleton College. She is principal flutist in the Mankato Symphony Orchestra, and maintains a private flute studio. In addition to flute instruction, Ms. Mahr is in demand as a handbell clinician, and directs the St. Olaf Handbell Choir, the St. Olaf Chapel Ringers, and oversees the direction of the student-led Manitou Handbell Choir.

DANA MAEDA, *Instructor in Music*: Oboe. BM Oboe Performance, Music Education (vocal) and Music Education (instrumental), St. Olaf College; M.A., St. Mary's University. Dana studied oboe with Julie Madura and Rhadames Angelucci. She currently performs with the Rochester Orchestra, the Dolce Wind Quintet, and the WindWorks Woodwind Quintet and is active as a free-lance performer in the Twin Cities area. She has performed with the Bloomington Symphony, Kenwood Chamber Orchestra, and the Minnesota Symphonic Winds, and has been on the faculty at Crown College and Bethel University.

MARK KELLEY, *Instructor in Music*: Bassoon. B.M. in Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kelley has studied with George Berry, John Miller, Norman Herzberg, and Gary Echols. A 25-year member of the Minnesota Orchestra, Kelley is currently co-principal bassoonist and has appeared as a soloist on several occasions. He has also been a member of the Santa Fe Opera Company orchestra. He keeps a rigorous performing schedule and maintains a private teaching studio. Kelley has been a member of the St. Olaf music faculty since 1991.

KURT CLAUSSEN, *Instructor in Music*: Saxophone. B.A., St. Olaf College; MM saxophone performance, University of Minnesota; Performers Certificate from the Conservatoire National de Region de Bordeaux, France, where he studied with Jean-Marie Londeix, one of the world's noted saxophonists and teachers. In addition to his teaching responsibilities at St. Olaf, he currently teaches in the Apple Valley, Minnesota, public schools and is a member of the Ancia Saxophone Quartet, a professional saxophone quartet. With the Ancia Quartet Claussen has performed at recent regional, national, and international saxophone conferences in Montreal, Iowa City, Chicago, Winnipeg, and Florida. In 1993, 1995 and 1997 the quartet presented joint concerts with the Berlin Saxophone Quartet, including quartet and octet performances at "Klangfenster '95" in Berlin, Germany.