Colere Quartet wins gold at Fischoff

The Colere Saxophone Quartet, composed of three University of Iowa doctoral students and a recent UI alumnus, won a gold medal May 10 at the 47th annual Fischoff National Chamber Music Association Competition.

The Fischoff National Chamber Music Association Competition is the nation’s largest chamber music competition and America’s premier educational chamber music competition.

Members of the Colere Saxophone Quartet include:

- **John Cummins** (DMA, 2018), Grinnell, Iowa
- **Elissa Kana** (DMA), Katy, Texas
- **Greg Rife** (DMA), Crest Hill, Illinois
- **Dennis Kwok** (DMA), Hong Kong

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fischoff National Chamber Music Association transitioned from its traditional live competition to a virtual one, basing decisions on the ensembles’ initial video auditions.

“This has been a long journey for them in the Fischoff Competition. Even though they won the Plowman Competition last year, they only advanced to the semifinal round at Fischoff that year,” says Kenneth Tse, professor of saxophone. “After months of dedicated practicing and rehearsing, they committed the entire program to memory and were thoroughly prepared to take on the challenge again. We are thankful that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fischoff committee decided to move forward with the competition. I am very excited that they finally received what they deserve, and it is truly a terrific memory for their time here at the University of Iowa.”

Gompper Receives Guggenheim Fellowship

Professor of Composition David Gompper was among 175 writers, scholars, artists, and scientists nationwide chosen for a Guggenheim fellowship in 2020.

Gompper is using the fellowship to take a full year off from teaching to focus solely on writing a piano concerto, a triple concerto, and an orchestral piece called Starburst for Naxos Records, the world’s leading classical music label.

“Being selected confirms that my many recent projects have paid off. This award is certainly a step in that direction, and in the direction of being able to navigate or be recognized on an international level,” says Gompper.
UI’s Graduate College awarded Alaine Reschke-Hernández (Ph.D. 2019) the D.C. Spriestersbach Dissertation Prize in the Social Sciences, an award established to recognize excellence in doctoral research. During her time at Iowa, she focused her research on establishing an effective model of music therapy for patients with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD).

The Graduate College also selected her dissertation to represent the University of Iowa in the national competition for the 2020 Council of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award, the most prestigious dissertation prize in the country.

“In addition to producing an intellectually elegant study, which has been chosen as a finalist for the nation’s most prestigious dissertation award, Alaine’s research will have an important clinical impact,” says Kate Gfeller, Alaine’s advisor and professor throughout her doctoral studies. “Her dissertation has implications for optimizing social, cognitive and affective wellbeing for persons with Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Her findings will help define best practices for music therapy, and can influence care by related professions and family caregivers...her research is an important reminder of the power of music in our lives.”
Director of Bands **Mark Heidel** and the **Iowa Symphony Band** were selected to perform at the North Central Division Conference of the College Band Directors National Association on February 20 at DePaul University’s Gannon Concert Hall in the Holtschneider Performance Center. They also performed a pre-conference concert at Moline High School.

Two University of Iowa alumnae participated in the presidential inauguration “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band: Gunnery Sgt. **Kara Santos** (M.A. 2001, D.M.A. 2005) and Master Sgt. **Kira Wharton** (M.A. 1995, D.M.A. 1997). Santos (pictured here) played flute and Wharton, chief librarian, managed the music for the musicians and remained on the platform with the musicians. The band provided music for the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol while seated directly beneath the inaugural platform.

Piano Professor **Alan Huckleberry** gave a disklavier masterclass to piano students at Southeast Missouri State, showcasing one of two disklaviers recently acquired by the University of Iowa School of Music. The disklavier technology makes it possible to connect two, three, or even four disklaviers via the Internet, producing the same key and pedal movements in real time.
For the first time in its 140-year history, the Hawkeye Marching Band is paperless. Thanks to a generous grant from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the HMB is using the Flip Folder App (by BandSavvy LLC) for all sheet music. This app not only keeps students safe by eliminating student contact-related music distribution, but also reduces their carbon footprint.

Doris Preucil (MA 1968) was the recipient of the 2020 ASTA Marvin J. Rabin Community Service Award. Doris is the founder and director emerita of the Preucil School of Music in Iowa City, Iowa.

Jim Dreier, associate professor in jazz studies, was the 2020 inductee into the Iowa Jazz Educators Hall of Fame. This is the highest honor for a jazz educator in the State of Iowa. Professor Dreier joins more than 25 teachers and performers in the Hall of Fame, including past UI inductees Tom Davis and John Rapson.

School of Music students Mark Rheume (PhD composition), Megan Maddaleno (DMA orchestral conducting), Gustavo do Carmo (DMA piano), and Zachery Meier (PhD composition), were accepted into this past summer’s highly selective Eastman Leadership Academy. Participants in the academy (held virtually this year) engaged with similarly passionate and dedicated musicians while focusing on topics such as innovation in the arts, application of entrepreneurial thinking and business skills, and crafting a personal mission.

Musicology Professor Marian Wilson Kimber received the Sight and Sound Subvention award from the Society for American Music for her work “In a Woman’s Voice: Musical Readings by American Women Composers.”

In 2017, all eyes turned to Iowa City as the best tradition in college football was born: The Iowa Wave. Last year, the Hawkeye Marching Band teamed up with country music star Pat Green to record a special version of the song behind the tradition. “Wave on Wave,” featuring Pat Green and the Hawkeye Marching Band, was released this fall on iTunes and Spotify. The proceeds from downloads and streams will go directly to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital.