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Mu Phi Epsilon International Professional Music Fraternity is a coeducational fraternity whose aim is the advancement of music in the community, nation, and world through the promotion of musicianship, scholarship, and music education, with emphasis on service through music.

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Denver Skyline Sunrise
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Passionate arts advocacy: the time is now

I attended Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., in March, on behalf of the National Music Council and Mu Phi Epsilon. This unique annual event brings together a broad cross-section of America’s cultural and civic organizations along with thousands of grassroots advocates from across the country. Arts Advocacy Day has been instrumental in advancing key legislative initiatives such as increased funding for the federal cultural agencies and enlightened tax, international, and education policies. To say the event was amazing is an understatement.

The first day offered training sessions for more than 700 arts advocates representing every state. We learned about current arts issues circulating on Capitol Hill and gained skills to become effective advocates for increased arts support. On the second day, we hit the pavement! With schedules in hand, we visited as many lawmakers as possible; I personally visited the offices of four senators and five representatives. While it was hard to tell if my visits had any impact, I felt empowered that I was doing something for the arts and energized to become more active in my support of the arts, specifically music.

Why bring this up now, as we are in the final stages of our 2017 convention planning? Because convention is the perfect opportunity to reaffirm our dedication to creating opportunities – local to global – for every American to participate in and appreciate the world of music. Come with your ideas, and together we will become passionate advocates for the hundreds of music organizations near and dear to our hearts. Our passion is what will convince legislators of the value and importance of music in our nation’s life.

Rosemary Ames
International President

P.S. See page 6 for Part 2 of my President’s Message.

P.P.S. Did you know that Geico offers a special auto insurance discount to Mu Phi members? And that Geico makes a donation to the Fraternity for every new quote requested by a member, whether or not you buy? If you’ve recently graduated or just want to save some money, consider completing a free quote at http://bit.ly/geicoMPE.
Greetings, Mu Phi sisters and brothers,

The Denver and Colorado Springs Alumni chapters, Delta Rho, and all the West Central and Pacific Northwest chapters greatly look forward to sharing Colorado’s song-celebrated skies, mountains and plains with you, and to hosting our Fraternity’s 2017 Convention.

Here are some things of general interest to convention attendees:

- Denver International Airport (DIA) is way northeast of town and the hotel. There will be buses to the hotel from the airport and a sign-up sheet at the registration desk for return trips (see website for times and costs). If you’re arriving a few days earlier or leaving later than the Convention dates, check DIA’s website for other options. Note: Uber is less pricey than taxis.
- The hotel provides a shuttle for local distances of a mile or so. Use it for nearby shopping and restaurants (Park Meadows Mall vicinity) and to get to the metro area’s new RTD light rail system (requires transfers to/from airport).
- Denver is Colorado’s state capital, its largest city, and a sports/health-oriented, tech-savvy, craft beer, art and culinary center with many state and federal government offices.
- Depending on traffic, Boulder is a 45-60 minute drive north of Denver, Colorado Springs is an hour south, and the mountains are about 30 minutes west.
- Colorado is an artistic and culture-rich state with:
  - Many summer festivals/performances to enjoy, such as the Colorado Music and Aspen Music Festivals, the Central City Opera, band, symphony, choir, and other concerts at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Chautauqua, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Broadway shows/plays, the Larkspur Renaissance Festival, etc.;
  - Wonderful museums, the Air Force Academy, national/state parks, zoos, aquariums, botanical and sculpture gardens, historical sites, and amusement parks;
  - All types and levels of sports and indoor/outdoor activities – participate or just watch!

If you’re coming before or staying after Convention, you may want to do some research online at VisitDenver.com, VisitCOS.com or Colorado.com.

Important: When adventuring a mile high, you are advised to bring sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, swimsuit, and lighter attire for hot weather (but remember a sweater or jacket for inside the chilly hotel). You’ll also want warmer/sturdier clothing and shoes if you plan to venture into the mountains. Because of our thinner, drier air and great scenery, *always* carry drinking water and a charged cell phone and/or camera, and plan to do things at a more leisurely pace. We can’t wait to see you!

Yours in music, friendship, and harmony,

Jackie and Kirsten
CONVENTION MUSIC DELEGATES

Matthew Hoch, Baritone, Lambda
Tamara Maddaford, Flute, Phi Mu
Aaron Larget-Caplan, Guitar, Beta
Kristín Jónína Taylor, Piano, Alpha Kappa
Yukiko Sekino, Piano, Omega Omega
Ruth Carver, Soprano, Alpha Kappa
Mary Matthews, Flute, Mu Phi
Order of the Flying Purple Funk, Zeta Theta

These music delegates were confirmed at press time. Visit muphiepsilon.org/page/ConvSpeakers for any additional delegates and biographies of all performers.
IMPORTANT BUSINESS, LASTING MEMORIES

In 2014, I appointed an ad hoc committee to present to us this year a completely revised set of *Bylaws and Standing Rules*. They did their job, and did it magnificently! You have received this important document through your chapters, with ample time to review and discuss it together. It will be formally presented during a convention business session, and we hope for unanimous approval. I cannot thank our committee enough for the many hours they spent to develop this document. They reached out to the membership for feedback, took seriously each comment they received, and made revisions accordingly. I am so proud of Katherine Pfeiffer, Judith Goff, and committee chair Kurt-Alexander Zeller for the monumental task they completed in service to our beloved Fraternity.

The fraternity electorate has received – before the convention, for the first time – information about members who have agreed to be considered for office on the *International Executive Board*. All have been vetted by the Screening Committee and their names will be given to the Nominating Committee, which is selected at the convention and sets forth the final slate of nominees. Take the opportunity to become acquainted with these outstanding members prior to the convention, so your vote for the next IEB will truly be a chapter vote.

**Music and friendship**

Plan to come to Denver in time to witness the *Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition* finals on Thursday afternoon. You’ll be thankful you’re not a judge, because the talent is spectacular and the decision will be hard! See pages 8-9 to learn about the finalists. Later in the convention, the winner will treat us to a recital and your chapter can book a future performance. Other members will perform throughout the convention as music delegates. The array of workshop choices is sure to be interesting and educational, and there will be music-making opportunities for everyone. The convention schedule is posted on the Mu Phi Epsilon website. Visit often, as new performers and presenters are still being added.

An important convention component is friendship, and you may find that unprogrammed things affect you the most profoundly. That chat in the corridor with someone from across the country. That thrilling performance by a delegate who happened to sit at your table for lunch. That long talk after midnight with other collegiates. Such unexpected, unsought moments are the ones that linger in your memory for years, long after you have forgotten about changes to the bylaws.

A convention is the intermingling of necessary discussions with enriching workshops, amazing performances, renewing old acquaintances, making new friends, and enjoying every minute. We’ll dine together, meet together, make music together, and share together. Come for inspiration, fellowship, and to keep up with exciting changes in the fraternity. We have you covered. See you in Denver!
OPPORTUNITIES AT CONVENTION

It will be so fine to have all of you at our convention in Denver! Many preparations have been made so it will be a terrific experience for everyone. In addition to meetings, meals, performances, and training sessions, convention is a fabulous opportunity to visit and rekindle our friendships.

Our fraternity accomplishes much through the efforts of everyone who attends the triennial convention. Each person who comes to represent their chapter as a delegate, and each person who comes in support of their delegate, has a role to play. Convention is an opportunity to review the way we do things as a fraternity, and this year we have the unusual and important opportunity to discuss and ratify a proposed new set of Bylaws. The Bylaws Revision Committee has carefully crafted the revision over the last three years, giving members plenty of opportunity for input along the way.

A personal story
Each business delegate is placed on a Convention Committee. At my first Mu Phi Epsilon convention in Jacksonville, Florida, I was asked to be on the Resolutions Committee. When the committee had its first meeting to discuss the resolutions that had been put forth, I hoped I could sit at the back and just raise my hand if the group needed consensus.

That wasn’t to be; I was asked to read resolutions, at the microphone, on the floor of the business meeting. I have to tell you – I was mortified! But a kind soul, Nancy Murphy from the Ann Arbor Alumni chapter, said to me, “Ruth, I’ll be right behind you to support you – don’t worry.” So I did as asked, and found that not only could I read the resolutions, but it was an opportunity to learn a new skill. Nancy Murphy will always be my friend and hero for the help she gave me.

I share this story so that perhaps you will find it encouraging if you have the opportunity to be on a committee or take an unfamiliar role at the convention. If I could do it, so can you, and someone will be there to support you.

Parting words
Serving on the 2014-2017 International Executive Board has been an honor. I regretfully will not be able to continue another term, as my health has been in jeopardy since last September. I have been treated for brain cancer in recent months, and thankfully, have done all right. The doctors are encouraged with my progress, but I do not know at this time what my future holds.

I want all alumni to know that speaking to you, emailing you, and looking at your phenomenal end-of-year reports have given me a genuine respect for everything you do in your chapters to further music in your communities. I leave you with this thought (knowing, of course, that I am preaching to the choir):

“The arts are not just a nice thing to have or to do if there is free time or if one can afford it. Rather, paintings and poetry, music and fashion, design and dialogue, they all define who we are as a people and provide an account of our history for the next generation.”
—Michelle Obama
2017 Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition

Competition Finalists

Final Round Thursday, July 27, 2017, 2:00-5:00 pm
University of Denver, Denver, CO

Join us for the competition’s final round to hear these outstanding musicians compete for two years of management and concerts under auspices of the Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation.

Ashlee Bickley, mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Ashlee Bickley (Mu Upsilon, Allied) performs and teaches various genres across the classical singing medium. Recent operatic roles include Dorabella (Così fan tutte), Angelina/Cenerentola (La Cenerentola), Hansel (Hansel and Gretel), Mother (Amahl and the Night Visitors), Alma March (Little Women), Geneviève (Pelléas et Mélisande), and Mother/Grandmother (Little Red Riding Hood). Operatic covers include Stéphano (Roméo et Juliette), Orlofsky (Die Fledermaus), Marcellina (Le nozze di Figaro), and Tisbe (La Cenerentola). Ashlee has appeared with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Ocala Symphony, Concordia Theological Seminary, Heartland Sings and Bach Collegium Fort Wayne as the alto soloist in numerous works by J.S. Bach, Stravinsky’s Les Noces, Händel’s Messiah, Charpentier’s Te Deum, Vivaldi’s Gloria, and the US premieres of CPE Bach’s St. John Passion and Halévy’s Prométhée Enchaîné. An avid recitalist and new music advocate, Ashlee was recently the featured performer at the Manchester University New Music Festival and Rural America New Music Festival and has performed on recital series at several churches and schools. Ashlee holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Florida State University and was a Resident Artist Fellow with the Atlantic Music Festival from 2014 to 2016. She is on faculty at Trine University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Chika Inoue, saxophone

Chika Inoue (Omega Omega, Los Angeles Alumni) is one of the most promising saxophonists of her generation. She has been praised for her “beautiful tone, acute sensitivity and virtuosic technique.” She has performed with orchestras and at concert halls internationally, appearing as soloist and chamber musician and receiving lavish admiration in the United States, Germany, Italy, China, and Japan. She is engaged in several new concerto projects in upcoming seasons. Chika regularly performs in Japan and appears at many international venues. She has been a featured performing artist in international festivals such as The Faenza International Saxophone Festival in Italy and The Yamaha Saxophone Festival in Japan. Additionally, she was recitalist and master class teacher at The International Clarinet and Saxophone Music Festival in Taiyuan, China and University of Arts, Berlin (UdK) in Germany. A native of Osaka, Japan, Chika spent most of her youth in Frankfurt, Germany, and San Diego, California. A graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music (D.M.A.), California State University, Fresno (M.A.), and UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music (B.A.), she is dedicated to sharing her knowledge with students internationally. She serves on the faculties of the Los Angeles City College, Pierce College, and California State University, Dominguez Hills. She is a Conn-Selmer Performing Artist endorsed by Henri Selmer Paris saxophones.
Jonathan Morris, piano
Jonathan Morris (Delta Rho) is completing a doctoral degree in piano performance at the University of Colorado-Boulder College of Music, studying with Andrew Cooperstock. Born in the Republic of Ireland in 1992, he was accepted to the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin at age sixteen. He moved to London in 2010 to study piano with Ronan O’Hora at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees with classifications of First Class Honours and Distinction, respectively. Jonathan has received numerous awards in local, national, and international competitions, including CU-Boulder’s prestigious Honors Concerto Competition in February 2017. At the 2016 ESB Feis Ceoil—Ireland’s leading national music festival—he won the coveted Mabel Swainson Award, and a year earlier at the Feis he marked a win in both the Hamilton Harty Cup and Anthony Glavin Trophy. Jonathan’s 2016 season included performances at the City of London Festival, Ireland’s National Concert Hall, and the New Ross Piano Festival, where he performed solo and played a four-hand concert with Nathalia Milstein, winner of the 2015 Dublin International Piano Competition. Next year Jonathan will play Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 3 Op. 26 with the CU Symphony Orchestra.

Maria Wietrzynska, piano
Polish-born pianist Maria Wietrzynska (Delta Rho) has won top prizes in Southern California regional piano competitions and the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. She performed at the Redlands Bowl as the winner of its 58th annual Young Artists Auditions. As a winner of the Beverly Hills National Auditions, she performed recitals on the Manhattan Beach “Previews” series and “Sundays at 2” series, which she subsequently recorded. She has performed with a number of Southland orchestras and with the SODRE Symphony Orchestra in Montevideo, Uruguay. Maria obtained her M.M. degree at Texas Christian University, where she studied with John Owings, and is currently working towards her D.M.A. at CU Boulder where she is a student of Dr. David Korevaar.

Katsuya Yuasa, clarinet
A charismatic and versatile clarinetist, Katsuya Yuasa (Phi Mu, Allied) has performed widely in the United States as a soloist and chamber musician. Presently he is an adjunct professor at Florida A&M University; a graduate teaching assistant at Florida State University, where he is pursuing a doctoral degree under the guidance of Jonathan Holden and Deborah Bish; and an Artist Diploma candidate at Boston Conservatory, where he studies with Michael Norsworthy. He is a founding member of Duo Esplanade (flute, clarinet). Katsuya has won prizes from many notable competitions and awards, including the ENKOR International Competition, Texas Clarinet Colloquium Young Artist Competition, Great Composers International Competition Series, San Diego Heritage Music Festival Director’s Award, and Arthur W. Foote Award, for which he was a finalist. As a performer, he has been featured with numerous ensembles. His recent performances include Premiere Rhapsodie by Claude Debussy with the Rio Hondo Symphony Orchestra, Paganini in Metropolis by Frank Proto with the Boston Conservatory Wind Ensemble, and Clarinet Concerto by Aaron Copland with the Boston Conservatory Sinfonietta. Katsuya was named a Yamaha Young Performing Artist in 2014.
Meet the Newest ACME Honorees

Mu Phi Epsilon is proud to announce the latest round of ACME honorees. We are pleased to include them among our most accomplished members whose achievements place them at the acme of our profession.

Anli Lin Tong
Gamma Sigma, Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni
Piano
Praised by critics for her “pointed grace” (Los Angeles Times) and “exquisite pianism” (Chinese American News), pianist Anli Lin Tong has performed in Europe, Asia, and the United States as a concerto soloist and chamber musician. An alumna of The Juilliard School and UCLA, Anli has held board positions at state and national music organizations including MTNA, MTAC, and CAPMT. Anli makes an effort to give her students support and wisdom that goes beyond musical knowledge, such as finding opportunities and coaching them for performances and competitions, whether as soloists or musical collaborators. Her students consistently win high praise for their playing and have won top prizes in state and national competitions.

Zina Schiff
Omega Omega, Boston Alumni
Violin
The New York Times has described Zina Schiff as an instrumentalist of “luscious high voltage ... vintage Heifetz.” The California-born violinist has extensive national and international experience as a performer, recording artist, and master teacher. Early in Zina’s career, Glamour magazine named her a Top Ten College Winner and Musical America selected her as an Outstanding Young Artist. She has recorded fifteen CDs; of special note are her first CD as soloist with the Israel Philharmonic, her recording of the Bloch concerto with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and recordings of the Sibelius and Barber concertos with the Hungarian MAV Orchestra under the baton of her daughter Avlana Eisenberg. She was a student and protégé of the legendary Jascha Heifetz. Zina performed as a Boston Alumni music delegate at the 2014 convention.

Her teaching motto is “Life is a performance, not a rehearsal!” Johanna is a charter board member for the Los Angeles/Beirut Sister City organization, an alumna of U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C, and a speaker and Citizen Diplomat for the U.S. State Department. Her mission is to develop bridges of tolerance and understanding between the U.S. and Lebanon through music, education, and cultural exchanges.

A note from the ACME co-chairs: Nominate a deserving member for ACME honors

The ACME honor highlights the strengths of our most accomplished Mu Phi artists, composers, musicologists and educators. It’s a peer-to-peer recognition; candidates are nominated by other members, and any member can suggest a deserving ACME nominee at any time. We encourage you to nominate currently affiliated (dues-paying) candidates who have achieved acclaim in their musical endeavors.

Please visit muphiepsilon.org (click About, Honors & Awards, ACME) for procedures on nominating ACME candidates. We look forward to hearing from you.
Forever Florence: True Tales of Italian Intrigue

By Rona Commins, Alpha Delta, Sacramento Alumni
Reviewed by Jacqueline Wright (Sacramento Alumni) with Alan E. Waite

Renaissance Florence comes alive in this superbly crafted and innovative collection of period accounts, the writing of which was supported in part by the Fraternity's 2014 Mary Alice Cox Award. Rona Commins's work evokes fascinating images of Florence over two centuries of the Italian Renaissance, bolstered by skillfully drawn historical sketches. The stories are impeccably researched, thoroughly documented, and compellingly written.

One need not travel to Italy to relish this book. Though designed for the tourist who visits the city's piazzas, it is the sort of read to enjoy at the end of the day, snuggled safely in bed. Reading it, you might be touched by the horror of the black plague, or feel the dagger thrusts of Medici revenge, or absorb the breathtaking beauty of the wealthiest palazzos while Latin chants waft softly across cobbled streets.

The chapter “Guide to Concerts in Florence” includes dates, addresses, and contact information for summer music series, opera and other music venues, English movie theaters. You’ll also find locations and schedules for Mass at Florence’s many churches and information about cultural programs at the Florentine British Institute. A detailed map of Florence includes all venues mentioned in the book.

Forever Florence, True Tales of Italian Intrigue
Paperback: 128 pages
39 photos b/w, 15 photos color,
map, index, bibliography,
$24.95.

Publisher: Rona Commins July 24, 2014
Photographer Maggie Suchow.
Chapeau Graphic Design and Publishing.

Language: English
ISBN-10: 0990474607
Dimensions: 8.9” x 5.9” x 0.4 “
Weight: 0.8 pounds

Available from
www.amazon.com and ronacommins@yahoo.com
While most Mu Phis focus on classical music during their academic studies, many perform in other genres during their collegiate years and beyond. In this first of an occasional series exploring members’ musical activities outside the classical realm, The Triangle profiles four Mu Phi women in jazz. Sheri Izzard (Alpha Kappa, Kansas City Alumni) sings professionally in commercial music and in jazz ensembles. Kim Sivils (Alpha Kappa, Kansas City Alumni) has built a thriving career as a jazz pianist in clubs and for private events. Danielle Stoner (Zeta Eta, Rochester Alumni, District Director EGL1) plays saxophone with an all-female jazz band while studying toward a graduate degree in social work. Vocalist Taylor Young (Gamma Eta) is completing her bachelor’s degree in jazz at Central State University. Their responses to an email interview are the basis for this article.

Family ties

All four women attribute their jazz attraction to childhood or teen experiences. One of Sheri’s early memories is playing the piano with two fingers at age five, guided by her father who taught her to play by ear. She grew up hearing jazz at home – recordings and also live performances when her dad, aunts, and uncles played together – and began piano lessons at age seven.

Kim’s story is similar; her father was a well-known jazz trumpeter in her hometown of Kansas City, so jazz was part of her family life. She also began piano at age seven and was improvising by her early teens. She later studied with renowned local jazz pianist John Elliot, and laughs that he probably took her as a student as a favor to her father.

Taylor’s family was also active in music. She recalls that her mother had the local jazz radio station on every night, which developed Taylor’s ear for jazz. Her college studies have molded and shaped her love for the genre, and her tastes have broadened to include others like neo-soul.

Danielle’s interest in jazz came a little later. She started instrumental training as a flutist, but in seventh grade wanted to join the jazz band and picked up the saxophone. She immediately fell in love with the sax, the variety of styles that make up jazz, and the creative process of improvisation.

Different performance paths

Each followed a different performance path in jazz. As an undergraduate, Danielle played baritone saxophone with the Harpur Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mike Carbone. She says, “It was a stellar ensemble to learn from and grow with.” Danielle currently plays tenor sax with the Ladies First Jazz Big Band, an all-female band in Buffalo, NY, where Danielle is in graduate school. She joined Ladies First in 2015 and has performed with them at diverse venues like the Lewiston Jazz Festival, Chautauqua Institute, and Colored Musicians Club in Buffalo.

Kim, on the other hand, took a detour before returning to jazz. For many years she only played piano at home.
for enjoyment. Then in 2005, her dad invited her onstage at a jazz club to play a duet with him. She says, "It was magical. I knew then that I had to concentrate on making my childhood dream come true: I wanted to play jazz piano. Fortunately for me, respected bassist Steve Rigazzi heard our duet and asked if I had any interest in playing with him as a bass-piano duo." They spent several months practicing, then recorded a demo CD and distributed it to local restaurants. One hired them, and that gig provided steady work for several years. Thus Kim began a still-thriving career playing at jazz clubs, fine restaurants, and for corporate and private events.

Taylor informally nurtured her interest in jazz until she got to college, where she could immerse herself in the genre, study it deeply, and perform often with her jazz ensemble. She is looking forward to the group’s study abroad this summer in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus.

Sheri’s career path is perhaps the most varied. After singing in high school musicals, in college she joined jazz bands as a vocalist, picked up solo gigs on the side, and participated in USO tour performances in three Iron Curtain countries. After graduation, she taught public school music and performed up to six nights a week, especially while studying for her master’s degree in music education. She also started working as a jingle singer in recording studios around Kansas City, a gig that introduced her to a producer who later became her husband. They relocated to Los Angeles, where Sheri continued to sing jingles, broke into singing film and TV scores at several major studios (which became a 23-year career), and performed and recorded with a cappella jazz group Inner Voices. Today Sheri is back in Kansas City, where she performs with her own jazz band, Sheri and the Shoes.

Kim’s focus has largely remained in the jazz realm, but she credits her involvement with Mu Phi Epsilon for broadening her own knowledge and appreciation of classical music.

**Not just jazz**

These versatile musicians don’t limit themselves only to jazz. Sheri has sung lead with Sweet Adeline choruses and quartets in the past, and she covered all styles during her Los Angeles years. She points out that in her film and TV work, “Classical was dominant – movie score classical.” For live performances, she sang pop as well as jazz.

Danielle’s undergraduate saxophone study was primarily classical, and she still plays classical repertoire from time to time for *Rochester Alumni* chapter recitals or in saxophone quartets around Buffalo. She also sings every week with a church choir.

Taylor is a lifelong choral singer who has performed everything from classical to gospel; she currently sings with the Grammy®-nominated Central State University Chorus, which has performed in China, Prague, and various U.S. locations. She also points out that even as a jazz major, her first two years of undergraduate study were dedicated to classical training.

**On being a woman in jazz**

Jazz has historically been male-dominated, and women (especially instrumentalists) have come to the forefront relatively recently. We asked our four Mu Phis about their experience of being a female jazz musician. Kim says, “I honestly never felt that jazz was dominated by male players, because I have had the chance to meet many wonderful lady jazz musicians, mostly vocalists. My biggest complaint is that as a female jazz pianist, people immediately assume that I must also sing. Which I do not!”

Taylor has some practical advice. “I have learned there will be people who do not expect you to know much,
simply because you are a female jazz vocalist. It is clear to me that female vocalists have to be efficient in every aspect of the jazz world – know keys of tunes, be able to make lead sheets and charts for instrumentalists, be able to lead rehearsals, and even have some piano skills to self- accompany on gigs. These things, just to name a few, are what will help women gain respect in the jazz world. You have to show that you know what you are talking about.”

Sheri has similar observations. “A ‘chick singer’ was generally not considered to be someone who knew much about music, and my colleagues’ initial judgment that I didn’t know much was often obvious. But once we got into rehearsing and performing, they came to understand my background, and my experiences from that point on were rewarding and enjoyable. I also was lucky to find bands where the guys were polite and respectful.”

Danielle says, “Being a female jazz musician has been both a good and a bad experience. I was once told, “Only men can play the baritone sax well,” which made me even more determined to work harder and get better. I loved all the guys in Harpur Jazz, but being one of three women in the band could be alienating at times. Playing with Ladies First has been an amazing experience.”

**Learning to lead**

Each musician cites Mu Phi Epsilon as an important part of her life. Both Danielle and Taylor credit their Fraternity experience with teaching them to be leaders. Danielle says, “Being a chapter president and then district director has given me the skills to advocate for myself and others, and without those skills I wouldn’t be in the band. I joined Ladies First by going up to the director and telling her that I wanted to be a substitute with the band. I don’t think I could have done that without the skills that Mu Phi has taught me. With consistency and dedication, I later became a permanent member.”

Taylor echoes those thoughts. “Being a part of this great fraternity has taught me a lot, not only in my music life but also in my personal life. I have learned I can’t take the easy road in my art because the price for success in a high one. I have learned to be a leader, and that to lead, I have to be the one doing what I’m supposed to do. It has taught me to believe in myself and my craft.”

Kim and Sheri both joined the fraternity by special election, so their perspective is from an alumni point of view. Kim says, “Being a member of Mu Phi has helped me expand my style, accept that it is okay to have my own style, and not compare myself to others. It has given me the chance to share my style of jazz piano, especially improvisation, and to connect with other pianists. I’ve even been recommended for local jobs by my fellow members.”

Sheri sums up. “I joined only last year; no such organization had ever come across my path before. But now I appreciate the opportunity to support and help younger people who desire to make music their journey. Teaching, performing, and spreading the musical gift is important to me. I want to support the future of music in all our lives.”
NEW CHAPTER

WELCOME ETA GAMMA

Installed May 2, 2017, Virginia Wesleyan College

International President Rosemary Ames traveled to Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Virginia, to install the fraternity’s newest chapter, Eta Gamma. Located near the Atlantic Ocean, the Virginia Wesleyan campus is small but beautiful. The chapter had been preparing for its installation for several months, holding many Skype sessions with Rosemary, and all were happy to meet her in person at last.

After a final group meeting (including the membership quiz) the morning of installation day, Rosemary had lunch with chapter vice president Shelby Emch and treasurer Emily Powers to talk about chapter planning. Topics included selection of meeting times, chapter resources, fundraiser ideas, and directions the chapter might pursue in the fall, beginning with a SERV project for the school. Many of the members already participate in community SERV activities and they plan to involve more chapter members.

As the 4:00 p.m. installation time neared, Susan Todenhoft, District Director A2, and Marshall Pugh, District Director SE1, arrived to assist with the installation. Eta Gamma will join the A2 district. Rosemary had also reached out to Mu Phis who live in the Norfolk area, and she was pleased that two of them attended the installation: Lori Shipley, who joined in 1977 through Alpha Theta at Penn State University, and Tylia Jones, who joined in 2008 through Alpha Zeta at Radford University. All were pleased to meet one another and conduct the ritual together.

The campus was in the midst of finals, and the excited initiates considered the day’s events to be worthy interruptions of their exams. The installation and initiation rituals took place in the campus’s black box theater, which had a large space for the ceremony. Fifteen charter members were initiated, including thirteen undergraduates and two faculty. Afterwards, the black box also was the site of the chapter recital, in which the new Mu Phis displayed fine musicianship and a high level of professionalism. Many sing with the college chorus, and they performed selections from their recent tour. Several parents, friends, and college dignitaries attended the recital. The chapter gave its three graduating seniors Mu Phi honor cords to wear during graduation and surprised President Ames with a lovely gift basket.

Eta Gamma has good leadership from chapter president Laura Robusto and other officers, strong support from faculty advisor Bryson Mortensen, and enthusiasm throughout the school. Eta Gamma is already looking forward to introducing more students to Mu Phi Epsilon and initiating another large group in the fall. Welcome, Eta Gamma, to our fraternity of Music, Friendship, and Harmony!
Editor’s note: In her District Conference report, Sue Bissiri described the process she used to organize the 2017 GL1 District Conference. She sent it to me as well as other Mu Phi leaders, and I thought it worthwhile to share with Triangle readers. A condensed version is shown here. Sue has organized at least ten district conferences in eleven years. She was honored in 2016 as District Director of the Year.

Preparation
In summer 2016, I called the schools and chapter presidents in our district to ask what dates would work best for our 2017 district conference. We decided on Saturday, March 18, 2017, and informed everyone in August so the date could be included in chapter yearbooks. We selected Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti as the location because they offer us their facility at no charge and the surrounding area is where we have the most members, including Epsilon Lambda on the EMU campus. The music department head gave me permission to call the EMU facilities scheduler to reserve the two rooms we needed. I also asked the EMU catering department put our date on their schedule.

Planning
In fall 2016, emails went out to chapter presidents to promote the conference and encourage member participation. I also contacted people directly about performing. I asked the president of Epsilon Lambda, our host chapter, to organize committees for table setup, greeters, opening ceremony leaders, and discussion group leaders, plus a photographer and media technician. We arranged through the EMU music department to use a PowerPoint projector and screen, and asked that the recital hall piano be tuned just before the conference.

In November I worked by internet with the EMU catering department to select the menu. In December I made a conference invitation that included date, place, cost, schedule, and menu, and sent it to the district chapters. Registration consisted of sending attendee name(s) and a check to the Ann Arbor Alumni treasurer, who handled conference finances. In February, directions and parking info were sent to members, and campus security was notified to have the necessary doors open on the conference day.

Week before
The host chapter’s president sent me the names of all volunteer committee members, and performers provided their recital details. Five days before the conference, I typed up the program and had it produced by the copy center staff at Washtenaw Community College, who created a beautiful booklet. A day before the event, checks were written for the catering department, guest speaker, and EMU chapter president. Three EMU students helped me set up tables and chairs in the orchestra room, our main conference space. We saved $100 by using tables from the lounge (with permission, of course) rather than renting them. Finally, the media technician and I phoned the featured speaker to coordinate her PowerPoint needs.

Conference day
The room looked beautiful with dark green tablecloths on the serving tables, white cloths on the dinner tables, and lovely centerpieces made by Epsilon Lambda. We began with an opening ceremony led by Epsilon Lambda president Audrey Impellizzeri. Then attendees broke into facilitated discussion groups on different topics. The group leaders kept records of the discussions and gave group reports when everyone reconvened. This was followed by our luncheon, which began with grace sung as a round, followed by a delicious Italian buffet.

Audrey asked, “How can we help?” As a result, EMU students will have the opportunity to teach at YYO - service through music!

After lunch, our chapter presidents spoke in detail about their groups’ progress, achievements, and plans. Elaine Moore (Toledo Alumni) spoke of how wonderfully the
alumni and collegiate chapters are working together. Donna Chrzanowski (Detroit Alumni) has recently revitalized Phi Kappa at Wayne State University, and the alumni chapter has given eleven scholarships. Debbie Ash (Ann Arbor Alumni) spoke about the wonderful things that have happened in her life because of being a Mu Phi (see page 18). We also heard from Meridian Prall about Epsilon at University of Toledo, and from Audrey Pellizzeri about Epsilon Lambda.

The featured speakers were Mr. and Mrs. William Hayes, co-founders of the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra’s educational program that offers free, weekly group music lessons to area youth. After their impressive presentation, Audrey asked, “How can we help?” As a result, EMU students will have the opportunity to teach at YYO – service through music!

Recital
Then we moved to the beautiful Organ Recital Hall for the conference recital. Performers included harpist Laurel Federbush (Gamma, Ann Arbor Alumni) who performed three of her own new compositions; Meridian Prall and other vocal soloists from Epsilon; and the entertaining 11-member Clarinet Continuum, which includes several Ann Arbor Alumni members. The Epsilon vocalists sang two Mu Phi songs, and all attendees concluded the day by singing “Our Triangle” together.

Future plans
We generally have 50 to 60 people at our GL1 district conferences. Next year we will return to having a free GL1 district conference, with a donation box at the recital door. We will eliminate the meal, and therefore the last-minute collecting, counting checks, and fees to the caterer. We will offer a free reception after the recital, sponsored by the district’s alumni chapters.

If you have questions or want more information about planning a district conference, contact Sue at slbissiri@sbcglobal.net or 734-971-1084.
Soon after college, I moved back to Ann Arbor, where I affiliated with Ann Arbor Alumni right away. I found myself amidst a group of successful musicians who immediately took me under their wing and sent me students. When I decided to get my graduate degrees in flute performance, my chapter was behind me at every step, starting with critiqued practice for my entry auditions and continuing with encouragement and performance opportunities.

Speaking of performance, another benefit of chapter affiliation is that I can always find someone to perform with me. For instance, I recently performed with Gail Jennings (Gamma) in Canada and at the 2016 National Flute Association in San Diego. When clarinetist Marcia Anderson (Tau) affiliated last year, I brushed up my flute/clarinet repertoire and we formed the Daisy Duo/Trio.

I’ve made many connections through the chapter, such as late chapter patron and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Leslie Bassett, who wrote a composition for my trio. Former chapter president and late, renowned piano pedagogue Frances Danforth once let my accompanist and me practice on her harpsichord to prepare for a competition (which I won). Later, I bought that same harpsichord for the price she paid for it in 1969; Frances wanted it to have a good home.

Continued affiliation has brought me other unique opportunities. Two years ago, in pursuit of a new career direction, I applied for and won the Mary Alice Cox Award for Lifelong Learning. It paid my way to an intense conducting workshop at the University of Michigan and for conducting lessons and supplies. Last summer, when I sent our chapter’s newsletter to International President Rosemary Ames, I mentioned (since she lives in the Boston area) that I would soon be playing in a flute concert there. Guess what? She and her husband came, loved it, and ate dinner with us afterward.

A harpsichord, conducting lessons, musical partners, students, gigs – none of these would have happened as easily had I not been an actively affiliated alumni member. **The true wealth of Mu Phi Epsilon is in its alumni chapters.** I challenge every collegiate to join an alumni chapter after graduation. Wherever you end up, you will have instant musical friends and continue to benefit from the magic of Music, Friendship, and Harmony.
# 2017 Chapter Anniversaries

Congratulations to these chapters on their milestone anniversaries of Music, Friendship, and Harmony.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Chapter Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Drake University</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td>Portland, OR</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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Music educator Elaine Bernstorf (Phi Pi, Wichita Alumni, ACME) was inducted in February to the 2017 Kansas Music Educators Hall of Fame during a KMEA workshop held in Wichita. Her long and distinguished career includes special music education, early childhood arts, speech pathology, literacy, and curriculum development. A member of the Wichita State University music faculty since 1993, she served as Associate Dean of Fine Arts (2000-2009) and interim Dean of the College of Fine Arts (2003-2004). She has administered WSU's Kodaly Certification Program and facilitated summer Kodaly workshops since 2003. She co-authored the book *The Music and Literacy Connection* and is published in *Exceptional Music Pedagogy for Children with Exceptionalities*. An active Mu Phi, Elaine is chapter advisor for Phi Pi and a past president of Wichita Alumni.

Conductor and composer Charles Dickerson III (Omega Omega, Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni) was interviewed in early January on classical public radio station KUSC. He talked about his work with the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (icyola.org), of which he is the founding executive director and conductor, and its dual mission of developing outstanding young musicians and enhancing the social mobility of at-risk and underserved communities. Listen to the interview via podcast at kusc.org/series/arts-alive/page/3/.

*San Diego Alumni* presented a 2017 concert series that featured music by women composers, attracting up to 80 in the audience for each performance. Chapter members who performed included pianist Fontaine Lang (Mu Theta), violinist Eileen Wingard (Phi Nu), and cellist Carolyn Sechrist (Phi Nu).

Flutist Jane Osborne Sandstrom (Mu Gamma, Colorado Springs Alumni) recently attended a workshop “Once a Flutist, Always a Flutist” in Boulder, taught by eminent flutists Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway, and played in the master class with Lady Jeanne. A recent new affiliate with the alumni chapter after moving to Colorado Springs three years ago, Jane plays with the Little London Winds, Pikes Peak Flute Choir, and Rocky Mountain Wind Symphony. She also teaches high school science.

Composer Alex Shapiro (Phi Nu, Los Angeles Alumni, ACME) was re-elected to the Board of Directors of ASCAP as its sole symphonic and concert writer representative, and was also appointed to the boards of The ASCAP Foundation and The Aaron Copland Fund for Music. Alex has had recent artist residencies at University of Montana, University of Hawaii, Roosevelt University in Chicago, and University of Minnesota, and she was the featured guest composer at University of British Columbia’s 2016 Wind Conducting Symposium. She has several new CD releases and she appears in two recent Michael Stillwater movies, *Shining Night: A Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen* and *In Search of the Great Song*. In February 2017 Alex’s tuba sonata *Music for Two Big Instruments* was featured on daily syndicated radio program Composers Dateline. alexshapiro.org

Harpist and music educator Patricia Terry-Ross (Gamma, Detroit Alumni), above, was named in January as the Kresge Foundation’s ninth Eminent Artist. The honor came with a no-strings-attached $50,000 stipend. Patricia taught music at Detroit’s Cass Technical High School for 31 years, and still plays with the Eason Trio and the Michigan Opera Theatre orchestra. According to an article in the Detroit News, “Kresge cited Terry-Ross’s ‘unique legacy’ of performance and music education, and a passionate dedication to Detroit’s cultural community.” More at http://detne.ws/2kuYbtM.
**Doris Vogt Farrar**  
*Epsilon Xi*, June 11, 1953  
Died October 16, 2016  
Pianist, educator.

**Winifred Hill Gallup**  
*X*, November 8, 1939  
*Lawrence Alumni*  
Died September 19, 2016  
Pianist, music educator, church musician. Winifred taught piano privately to several generations of students, was a church organist for 63 years, directed handbell choirs, and was in demand as an accompanist in the Lawrence area. She sang with Lawrence Civic Choir and was an active member of several music and civic organizations.

**Dorothy Waldmann Gruidl**  
*Mu Theta*, December 15, 1947  
*Minneapolis/St. Paul Alumni*  
Died December 23, 2016  
Music educator. After teaching in Scotland as a Fulbright Exchange participant, Dorothy went on to a long career as an elementary music specialist in the St. Paul public schools.

**Dorothy Spafard Hull**  
*Phi Nu*, April 4, 1983  
*Los Angeles Alumni*  
Died September 26, 2016  
Pianist. Also a composer, Dorothy was a member of ASCAP.

**Susan Kathleen Sherman McHugh**  
*Phi Pi*, May 2, 1977  
*Wichita Alumni*  
Died October 18, 2016  
Vocalist, educator, dancer. Susan taught in the Wichita public schools for 34 years. Her specialty was teaching homebound students. She was also a singer and dancer with the Music Theater of Wichita and Crown Uptown Theater.

**Helen F. Harrod Perry**  
*Gamma*, April 20, 1934  
*Indianapolis Alumni*  
Died February 25, 2016  
Pianist, music educator. Helen had a long career as a member of the piano faculty at DePauw University.

**Jean Adams Robbins**  
*Phi Omicron*, January 25, 1941  
Died March 6, 2017  
Cellist, music educator. Jean taught music in Ohio schools and later pursued a professional cello career with the Buffalo Philharmonic and the New Orleans Symphony. While living in Washington, D.C., she performed with the National Gallery of Art Chamber Orchestra, Washington National Opera, and Washington Ballet Orchestra. Jean was a member of Friday Morning Music Club and Kindler Cello Society.

**Margaret Ann Schofield Strong**  
*Mu Theta*, December 15, 1947  
*Minneapolis/St. Paul Alumni*  
Died October 1, 2016  
Pianist, music educator. At age 16, Edith won first prize in the Chickering Piano Contest in New York (Leonard Bernstein took second place). She went on to an international career as soloist, orchestral pianist, and chamber musician. As the first female cultural ambassador for the U.S. Department of Cultural Programs in the 1950s and 1960s, she performed many recitals and radio broadcasts in England, Holland, Austria and Portugal, introducing American contemporary compositions to European listeners. Edith was a faculty member and chair of the piano department for 42 years at Boston University, her alma mater. She directed and played in the Sears Gallery Chamber Music Concerts and performed on local television and radio. A Mu Phi for life, she served as a faculty advisor for Phi Upsilon.

**Ruth Elizabeth “Betty” Robbins Tomfohrde**  
*Beta Iota*, January 7, 1973  
*Houston Alumni*  
Died March 28, 2016  
Pianist, music educator. Ruth was a longtime professor of piano at the Moores School of Music, University of Houston. Also an active performer, early in her career she toured France and Germany at the end of WWII as a member of the USO’s Concert Division. She later performed with many orchestras including the Houston Symphony and St. Louis Symphony, gave recitals in Carnegie Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, and toured several states as a Municipal Concert Series artist.

**Edith Stearns Trask**  
*Phi Upsilon*, May 20, 1957  
*Boston Alumni*  
Died November 13, 2016  
Pianist, music educator. At age 16, Edith won first prize in the Chickering Piano Contest in New York (Leonard Bernstein took second place). She went on to an international career as soloist, orchestral pianist, and chamber musician. As the first female cultural ambassador for the U.S. Department of Cultural Programs in the 1950s and 1960s, she performed many recitals and radio broadcasts in England, Holland, Austria and Portugal, introducing American contemporary compositions to European listeners. Edith was a faculty member and chair of the piano department for 42 years at Boston University, her alma mater. She directed and played in the Sears Gallery Chamber Music Concerts and performed on local television and radio. A Mu Phi for life, she served as a faculty advisor for Phi Upsilon.
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Zach Carlson to conduct convention choir

Zachariah (Zach) Carlson (Zeta Lambda) will conduct the 2017 Convention Choir. A Minnesota native, Zach earned a Bachelor of Music degree from University of Minnesota-Duluth with a concentration in vocal music education. Zach joined Mu Phi Epsilon while studying at Waldorf College before transferring to UM-Duluth, where he co-founded Zeta Rho and served as its president. Zach also was the founding artistic director of Split Rock Men’s Chorus, president of University Singers, and music peer advisor for the School of Fine Arts. Zach studied Norwegian and choral conducting in Oslo, Norway, partially funded by a Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation scholarship. He has traveled widely in Europe and the United Kingdom, experiencing many choral groups. Zach currently teaches grades 6-12 choir in St. Ansgar, Iowa.

Zach says, “What an honor to be asked to conduct this summer’s International Convention Chorus! I can’t wait to meet and sing with you. We are basing the concert program on the theme of Unity and Hope. It will feature classics in choral literature that will ensure success at each rehearsal, culminating with a beautiful message. The choir will also sing at the Memorial Ritual on Sunday, featuring a selection written by Mu Phi Jon Williams Bauer (Alpha Kappa) entitled “When We Lose the One We Love.” If you have any questions, please contact me at zachariah.davin@gmail.com. I’m looking forward to a great convention and beautiful music being made!”