For my students!

In 2013, Dr. Brian Lamb, conductor of the UCO Wind Symphony, and I were part of a commissioning consortium for a new concerto by David Maslanka. The beauty of the completed score was overwhelming. Only later did I learn about the horrific scene described in Maslanka’s program notes. While grappling with this concert I understood the music’s healing effects on the human soul, in Maslanka’s words: “Musical Vibration heals.”

Shortly after the premiere I felt the mission to bring this concerto to more people, young students in particular, and my “Music for Peace” public schools concert initiative was born. I selected additional works for “Music for Peace,” all have a strong message: expressing peace, tolerance and believing in the good of human beings. In addition I commissioned a piece based on and inspired by a graduation speech of Mary Angela for use in this project “Forgive”.

With the reported increase of violence and bullying in our public schools “Music for Peace” seeks to instill students to better choices and a life of tolerance, love and forgiveness. As a public school initiative, made possible in part by a research grant from UCO, this project offers a solution through music and lyrics, five performances, discussions, active student involvement and feedback surveys. This album “Music for Peace” is the result of this initiative and I thank you to all students and teachers who opened their heart through listening, discussions and written comments.

I wish that this initiative will gain momentum in many places for the shared experience that “Musical Vibration heals”.

Tess Remy

Performers’Biographies

Dr. Tess Remy-Schumacher was born in Cologne, Germany, and has studied with Bern Pergamenschikow, Maria Klopst, Siegfried Palm, Jacqueline du Pre and William Preucil. As a Fulbright Scholar, she studied with Lynn Harrell in his chamber music class at the University of Southern California and was awarded her MM. As “most outstanding graduate of the year for performance, academic excellence and leadership,” she received her DMA under the supervision of Emerence Schoenfeld.

Dr. Remy-Schumacher has won many international prizes including the first prize at Rome’s Carlo-Zecchi Competition with pianist Dr. Michael Stadler. She has been concert soloist for many years performing and recording in Asia, Australia, Europe and the U.S., including the Wigmore Hall in London, Jubilee Hall in Singapore and the Carnegie Recital Hall in New York and Bradly Hall in Chicago, the Brisbane Biennial Festival, the Australian Festival of Chamber Music and the Contemporary Music Festival of the World Music Festival (U.S. and the International Klangkunstverband (Germany).

Amongst her 12 CD publications, she most recently recorded Cello Concertos by David Maslanka and Carter Parn with the UCO Symphony under Dr. Brian Lamb. Following her appointment at James Cook University from 1990-1998, she is now a professor for cello, chamber music and historical performance practice at UCO. She was a Matting Fellow Performance at Harvard University 2010-2011.

She is colleague with Dr. Ted Hines, and General Program Coordinator of the recently approved Bach Center for Historical Performance Practice at UCO.

Dr. David Hardiman is the Director of Percussion Studies at UCO and previously taught at the University of Miami, the University of South Florida and St. Petersburg College. He is in demand as a percussion and drum set artist throughout the Southeast. He has performed and/or recorded with numerous world-class musicians including jazz players Joe Lovano, Wynton Marsalis, John Abercrombie, and Don Liebman and Pat Metheny. He has also performed with “Yes”, Ray Charles and Barry Gibb among other pop acts. He plays frequently with the Woody Herman, Larry Elgart and Jazz Surge big bands as well as The Brass Band of Battle Creek.

On the orchestral side, Mr. Hardiman has performed with the Florida Philharmonic, Florida Orchestra, New World Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. With degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Ohio State University, Mr. Hardiman is currently at the University of Miami. During the summer, he is on the percussion faculty at the Interlochen Arts Camp in MI.

A member of the UCO piano faculty since 2005, David Forbat is currently professor of piano and teaches applied piano, chamber music, piano ensemble, and keyboard functional skills. He holds a DMA from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, an MM from the University of Cincinnati, and a BM from the University of Southern California. His teachers have included John Perry, Frank Weiszstein, Claude Frank, and Aron Schoen. In recent years, he has performed recitals at numerous universities in the U.S. and China, and has been featured on public radio stations in China, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. The scope of his activity ranges from chamber collaborations with colleagues, large ensembles, and guest artists to dance collaborations, recording projects, and informative “lecture” programs.

Dr. Sandra Thompson is a professor of music, Undergraduate Coordinator of the School of Music, chair of the student retention committee, and has been a member of the UCO faculty since 1989. Dr. Thompson completed the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Thompson is currently the Artistic Director of the Ambassador’s Concert Choir, a community choir of 80+ voices in the Greater Oklahoma City area. Dr. Thompson was the music director for the world premiere of “Flipped: the Patted Page Story” conceived, written and directed by Dr. Greg White. She and Dr. White joined forces in May 2014 to premiere “Rising Star: Kay Starr, a life in Song.”

Dr. Thompson is pianist and assistant director of music at the Evangelical Baptist Church; a member of the Board of Directors of both the Ambassador’s Concert Choir and Allied Arts organization; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and the American Choral Directors’ Association.