

October 2023

Department of Music

Stutzman Family Foundation supports SCSU Applied Lessons Program, international choir tour



The philanthropic Stutzman Family Foundation recently renewed its commitment to several signature programs of the SCSU Music Department. At the annual meeting between university and foundation in June 2023 (pictured above), the Foundation pledged ongoing support for the Applied Lessons Program, through which SCSU music majors and minors receive free private lessons with world class faculty as part of their degree programs.

The Foundation is also providing ongoing support for tuition scholarships for Music and Music Therapy majors, several SCSU student ensembles, the Blue Steel Drumline, and the biannual international choir tour (see paragraph at right).

The partnership between the Stutzman Family Foundation and the Music Department provides remarkable benefits to our students, for which we are truly grateful!

Department of Music

120 Earl Hall

<https://www.southernct.edu/academics/music>

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Earl Hall! Another fall semester is underway and we are proud to be welcoming our largest cohort of new and returning music students in the past decade. This academic year will be the second full year for our Music Therapy program, which remains the only program of its kind in the state of Connecticut.

In this newsletter, you'll find news about ongoing support from the Stutzman Family Foundation, faculty and student achievements, department concerts, and an introduction to one of our newest faculty members. Thanks for reading—and, we hope we might hear from you soon, too!

Joshua Groffman (groffmanj1@southernct.edu)
Associate Professor & Chairperson, Music



June 2024 will see the return of the SCSU Choir to the international stage! Led by Dr. Terese Gemme, SCSU students, alumni, and community members will tour to the United Kingdom to perform concerts in England and Scotland. Substantial support for the cost of this transformative opportunity to travel and perform internationally is provided by the Stutzman Family Foundation.

News & notes from Department of Music faculty, students, and alumni

David Chevan

Performance in Florence, Italy in June 2023 with Afro-Semitic Experience. Led SCSU Latin Jazz Ensemble in performance at the Hotchkiss Fryer House Museum as part of the Jazz in the Garden concert series hosted by the Torrington Historical Society.

Matthew Feinberg '24 (B.A. MUS)

Performances as a member of the chorus in with two professional opera companies in Falstaff (Salt Marsh Opera) and L'Italiana in Algeri (Opera Theater of Connecticut).

Daniel Godchild '23 (B.A. MUS)

Began master's degree in Jazz Studies at the Hartt School of Music.

Joshua Groffman

Recording project of two original compositions with Danielle Messina, soprano, and Nathaniel Sullivan, baritone, funded by SCSU-AAUP Faculty Development grant. Presentation at Context '23 Conference at Eastman School of Music.

Jonathan Irving (History)

Presentation at the College Music Society National conference in Miami, October 2023.

Mark Kuss (Composition, Technology)

Performance of Prelude for Orchestra in April 2023, written for the Hamden Symphony Orchestra.

Michael Schmidt (Saxophone)

Tour to the United Kingdom with band The Most in August 2023.

Eric Trudel (Piano)

Taught and performed for six weeks at the American Institute of Music Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria in summer 2023.

Heather Wagner (Music Therapy)

Qualified as a trainer of the Association of Music and Imagery for the Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and Music. Guest lecture at Berklee College of Music and conference presentations at the World Congress of Music Therapy and the New England Region of the AMTA Annual conference.

Send us your news!

music@southernct.edu or (203) 392-6625

Faculty Spotlight

The Music Department recently welcomed Michael Schmidt as an applied instructor in saxophone. A performer and educator based out of New Haven, Michael earned his bachelor's degree in Music Education from Western Connecticut State University, studying jazz saxophone under Jimmy Greene. He teaches at Cromwell High School in Cromwell, CT, where he runs the band, jazz band, pep band, and pit band. Mike has toured throughout the U.S., Canada, and U.K. He plays with The Most, Mega, The Schmidt Brothers, The Simulators, various big bands in CT, and his own jazz quartet. He also plays and records regularly as a sideman.



Upcoming Events

Join us! All Music Department events are free and open to the campus and New Haven community. Sign up [here](#) to receive our monthly “Music @ Southern” mailing with the latest news about events.

Creative Music Orchestra

Wednesday, October 11, 1:00pm

University Band

Thursday, November 16, 7:30pm

Latin Jazz, Jazz Standards, & Blues Ensemble

Wednesday, October 11, 7:30pm

University Choir & Chamber Singers

Monday, November 20, 7:30pm

Art of Trio, featuring SCSU Jazz Faculty

Wednesday, October 18, 1:00pm

Creative Music Orchestra

Wednesday, November 29, 1:00pm

Art of Trio, featuring SCSU Jazz Faculty

Wednesday, November 1, 7:30pm

Latin Jazz, Jazz Standards,
Guitar Ensemble, & Blues Ensemble
Wednesday, November 29, 7:30pm

An Afternoon of Song

Wednesday, November 15, 12:45pm

University Band Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 7, 7:30pm

All concerts held in Garner Recital Hall (Engleman Hall C112).

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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