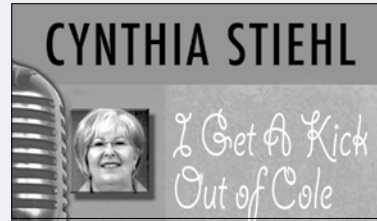


## Music in Juniper Hall

Saturday Oct. 22, 2011



### I Get A Kick Out of Cole

1930s Dinner Party & Concert

Cynthia Stiehl, mezzo soprano • Judith Jackson, piano

social • canapés • cash bar • dinner •

concert • desserts & coffee

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. • Juniper Hall • \$60

Call (920) 868-3763 for reservations by Oct. 17

Thurs. Nov. 3, 2011



### Annual Club Jazz Concert

Reggie Thomas, piano • Rick Haydon, guitar

club atmosphere • cash bar • concert

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. • Juniper Hall • \$18

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36" landscape rake  
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### Online Donations

Secure online donations can be made from our Web site: [www.birchcreek.org](http://www.birchcreek.org) and click on "SUPPORT."

## With Thanks

### Join us in thanking our 2011 concert sponsors

The concert sponsorship program helps Birch Creek underwrite and promote the professional musicians who come to Birch Creek each summer to teach and perform, as well the faculty members who return to Birch Creek in the off-season to teach clinics for Door County high school students and perform in concerts for the community. Please join us in thanking our sponsors when next you see them or patronize their businesses.

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"We see dual benefits to our Birch Creek sponsorship: We are supporting world class concerts in our community for residents and visitors alike, and excellent music education for students from Door County, the United States, and around the world."

—Jan & Andy Coulson, Owners  
The White Gull Inn

The White Gull Inn has been a partner in Birch Creek's concert sponsorship program since 2003. Owners **Jan and Andy Coulson**

continued their ongoing support in 2011 by sponsoring "Great Songs of the Jazz Age," the final concert of our 2011 summer season.

Birch Creek has several different concert sponsorship levels. If you are interested in sponsoring a concert in 2012, please contact Birch Creek Executive Director Kaye Wagner at (920) 868-3763 or by e-mail: [kaye@birchcreek.org](mailto:kaye@birchcreek.org).

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Excellence in music education and performance since 1976

# BIRCH CREEK

Music Performance Center, Inc.

Issue No. 46

Door County, Wisconsin

Fall 2011

## The Birch Creek circle widens in 2011



Photo credit: James Gill, WPT

During the past several years, Birch Creek has begun to re-tell the stories we hear from appreciative students, alumni, faculty, sponsors/donors and members of the community. Our circle widens with each passing year, and as we approached our 36th season in May 2011, we brought together those key stakeholders just mentioned above to review our 2005–2011 Long-range Plan and chart Birch Creek's future. All were in agreement: news from our alumni would be living testimony to the excellence of a Birch Creek education.

In this issue, we have written about 48 students, alumni, TAs and faculty members – a record number. Steve Heldt is one of those alums. Steve's cousin, Grace Gunnlaugsson, is a member of the Birch Creek Board of Trustees and the Long-range Planning Committee. She wanted to know how Steve felt about his experience here. "It was at Birch Creek that I decided to devote my life to music," Steve said. "The environment is perfect for young musicians to cultivate their talents with some of the best teachers in the world." Please take a moment to read about Steve and many other Birch Creek students and faculty members inside this newsletter. You will discover, and, we hope, value, the achievements by those who have taught and learned at Birch Creek.

This year, our circle widened to include the staff and Friends of Wisconsin Public Television. With a new video production truck that expands their capacity, WPT began an initiative to showcase Wisconsin's young performers—and Birch Creek was their first stop. The "Still Unforgettable" concert on Aug. 12 was just that—unforgettable. We wish to thank WPT for their hard work and ability to see the wonder that happens each summer at Birch Creek. Thank you, also, to the sponsors of WPT's "Still Unforgettable" production and other youth performance initiatives: **John L. Peterson, Stan & Shirley Inhorn, and James F. Crow**; and to Birch Creek concert sponsors for Aug. 12 **Tom & Marlys Regan**.

## "It was at Birch Creek that I decided to devote my life to music."

Pictured below in descending order: The 92-member **Birch Creek Symphony Orchestra** filled the stage (and more – see the Executive Director's notes on page 2); members of the **Birch Creek Steel Band** perform with Artist-in-Residence **Liam Teague**; and the **Jazz II Studio Band**, directed by **Nic Meyer**, is videotaped for broadcast at a later date by Wisconsin Public Television. Concertgoers watch a **student prelude performance**, left.



Photo Credit: Tony Hodges



*It is Birch Creek's mission to provide intensive, performance-based instruction to promising young musicians by immersing them in a professional, mentoring environment.*

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Birch Notes is published tri-annually by Birch Creek Music Performance Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Kate Rericha, Editor



**From the Executive Director**

After 14 seasons at Birch Creek, it has become difficult to distinguish one season from another. There have been many high points, many challenges, and many gratifying moments. However, the 2011 season will always remain unforgettable for several reasons.

The symphony session exceeded all enrollment records with 60 students. In combination with the 32 faculty and TAs, the stage was overflowing, and we found ourselves scrambling for yet more stage extensions. Though the numbers are impressive, it is the combined sound of the students with their mentors that lingers. The volume was breathtaking at times, but it was the refinement of their sound, the togetherness of the huge ensemble, and maturity with which the group played that established a new standard of excellence and thereby set this symphony session apart.

Moving to the percussion session... it has been a dream of mine to play in the steel band since I first heard it in 1998. When steel band director Al O'Connor made a plea at the faculty meeting for volunteers to fill some gaps in the student steel bands, I asked if I could, thinking it would be a snap. A "snap" it was not. After two weeks of rehearsals, early morning and late night individual practice sessions, and many hours of playing "air pan" to imbed the new (seemingly) random note layout into my head, I came away with not only the thrill of the performances, but a much deeper respect for the work our faculty and students do while they are in residence here. While I struggled to learn music for one ensemble, percussion students are in 5 or 6 different groups performing on a multitude of different instruments. The faculty members' levels of dedication, skill, patience, good humor, and stamina are even more apparent and valued than before.

During the jazz session, the culmination of roughly 4 years of discussions and planning came together in the three-day campus residence of Wisconsin Public Television. After two days of set up and test filming, the evening of the actual filming arrived. With a full house, the energy in the barn was palpable; the setting was enhanced by WPT's artistic team, and the music was truly magical. Students certainly achieved our goal of being professional in all aspects of their presentation "with flying colors." Both student ensembles gave their best performances of the session, converting their nervousness into excitement, as professionals would. We always expect our faculty ensembles to be superb, but on this night, the Academy Jazz Orchestra was absolutely electric.

The memory of the concert will always remain. What is equally rewarding is the validation received from Wisconsin Public Television. We all know that the educational offerings and resulting performances at Birch Creek are quite phenomenal, but when a nationally-known network like Wisconsin Public Television recognizes the strength of Birch Creek's programs enough to make it the first broadcast in their series about Wisconsin's youth, it's another feeling altogether.

*Kaye Wagner*

Executive Director

**Passing Tones**

**Measures of influence**

**Charles Gustav Wendt**, 75, died on August 1, 2011, in Kalona, Iowa, with his loved ones at his side. He was known affectionately by long-time Birch Creek faculty members as "Charlie," and together with strings faculty member **Elaine Skorodin** and winds faculty member **Russell Dagon**, coordinated Birch Creek's chamber music program from 1985–1992. He helped create a "family atmosphere" that still exists at Birch Creek, and "loved working with the students," Skorodin recalls. Charles retired from his position as Professor of Cello at the University of Iowa School of Music in 2000, after 34 years of service. Charles will be missed by those at Birch Creek who had the good fortune to know him.



**Alumni Notes**

\*\* These alumni were 2011 TAs at Birch Creek

**\*\*Matt Bittles**, Edwardsville, Ill., (Jazz II trumpet 2007) is pursuing jazz performance and music business degrees at SIU- Edwardsville.

**Bryan Carter**, Sycamore, Ill., (Jazz II drums 2005) is currently attending the Julliard School, N.Y., and has recently released his debut CD "Enchantment," reviewed in the Oct. 2011 issue of **Jazz Times**. Bryan is the son of Birch Creek faculty member **Ron Carter**, most recently the 2009 Lab Band Director.

**Laurel Crafton**, Geneva Ill., (Symphony bass 2003–05; Box Office Intern 2011) recently completed a music education degree at Roosevelt University. She is currently living in Madras, Ore. and teaching music as an AmeriCorps volunteer.

**\*\*Mike Conrad**, Bettendorf, Iowa, (Jazz I trombone 2004–06, Jazz II bass trombone TA 2009–11) completed an undergraduate music degree from the Univ. of Northern Iowa and is pursuing a master's degree in jazz trombone performance at Eastman School of Music.

**Jessica Corry**, St. Charles, Ill., (Jazz II tenor sax 2007, counselor 2011) is a senior at the University of Illinois pursuing a degree in music education.

**Katie Ernst**, Naperville, Ill., (Jazz I bass 2003–06, Jazz I & II bass TA 2010) gave a feature performance at the 2011 Rochester Jazz Festival. **Dennis Mackrel** (Jazz II faculty drumset) joined Katie in this performance. Katie completed a degree in jazz performance from the Eastman School of Music in spring 2011 and has accepted an internship at the Chicago Jazz Institute beginning this fall.

**Elizabeth Fairfield**, DeKalb, Ill., (Symphony 2006–07, 09, violin) is enrolled at St. Olaf College, Northfield Minn. Elizabeth is the daughter of Symphony horn faculty member **Laura Fairfield**.

**\*\*Aly Hany**, Webster Groves, Mo., (Jazz I trumpet 2007–08) is currently pursuing a music degree at University of North Texas.

**Steve Heldt**, Bloomington, Ill., (Symphony trumpet 2003) completed a double major in trumpet performance and music education at Northern Illinois University, where he now pursues a master's degree. He is band director for the Butler School District in Oak Brook, Ill.

**\*\*David Hutter**, Bryant, Ark., (Percussion 2004–05) graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Music Education degree and will be Assistant Band Director at Bryant High School in Bryant, Ark. this fall.

**Jose Kane**, Lisle, Ill., (Symphony viola 2006–07, 09, 11) is pursuing a viola performance degree at Illinois State Univ., Normal, Ill.

**Lindsay Katz**, Chicago, Ill., (Symphony violin 2009–11) is a violin performance major at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

**Andrew Lautenbach**, South Korea, (Jazz I 1997) now teaches music at the University of South Korea.

**Matthew Lipman**, University Park, Ill. (Symphony viola 2004, 06) was awarded 4<sup>th</sup> place in the semi-finals of the 2011 Primrose International Viola Competition in Albuquerque, N.M. between May 30 and June 5, and was one of only two competitors in an international field of 30 to receive the Honorable Mention award. Matt was a student of faculty member **Matthew Mantell**.

**David Chapman-Orr**, Appleton, Wis., (Symphony bass 2009–10) is enrolled at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

**Matt Poulos**, Schaumburg, Ill., (Symphony 2006–07, Jazz trombone 2008) recently completed degrees in music and computer science from Principia College in Elsau, Ill. He will begin a master's degree in trombone performance this fall at Northern Illinois University.

**\*\*Ben Runkel**, Elkhart, Ind., (Percussion associate faculty 2011, TA 2007–08, student 2001–03) teaches at Concord Community Schools, Elkhart, Ind. as a percussion specialist.

**Abby Sapadin**, Naperville, Ill., (Percussion 2005–08) attends Miami University, Oxford, Ohio and is pursuing a dual major in anthropology and music. A feature story appeared about Abby on the MU Web site: [www.miami.muohio.edu/miami-experience/abby-jo-sapadin.html](http://www.miami.muohio.edu/miami-experience/abby-jo-sapadin.html)

**John Tate**, New York, N.Y., (Percussion special performer 2005–11; Jazz I bass 2003) began a fellowship at the Julliard School for an Artist Diploma in Jazz Studies this fall. **Jeremy Noller** (Jazz drums) joins John in the same program at Julliard.

**Mike Truesdell**, New York, NY., (Percussion 2000–01, counselor 2007) completed a Master of Music degree at the Julliard School in percussion performance. He is now pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Julliard, where he is the first percussionist to be accepted into the D.M.A. program.

**Alex Trygstad**, Spring, Tex., (Symphony violin 2004–06) recently completed a viola performance degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He attends Eastman School of Music, and is pursuing a master's degree in performance and literature. "I think often about my three summers at Birch Creek and the musical impact it had on me," Alex wrote in a recent letter to us.

**Off to College**

**Symphony Session**

**William Chann**, clarinet, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Okla.  
**Philip Lee**, cello, cello performance & math, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y.  
**Joshua Weinberg**, flute, flute performance & German, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

**Percussion & Steelpan Session**

**Ryan Baumbartner**, engineering, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
**Adam Gorz**, music business, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill.

**Jazz I Session**

**Curtis Boysen**, drums, jazz studies, Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.  
**Christopher & William Johnson**, trumpet & trombone respectively, music, DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind.  
**Emiliano Lasansky**, bass, jazz bass performance, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y.  
**Anthony Orji**, baritone saxophone, the Julliard School, New York, N.Y.  
**Anna Rock**, piano, Sarah Lawrence College, Yonkers, N.Y.  
**Noah Samors**, guitar, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
**Sarah Smith**, alto saxophone, Berkeley College of Music, Boston, Mass.  
**Alex Thompson**, guitar, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

**Jazz II Session**

**Nelson Campbell**, trombone, jazz studies, Snow College, Ephraim, Utah

## 2011 Summer Scrapbook • Music keeps on truckin' at Birch Creek



Getting here is half the fun! Above left: **Percussion & Steel Band Program Director Robert Chappell** drives to Birch Creek from Northern Illinois Univ., DeKalb, in a U-Haul filled with percussion instruments. Above center: To begin the **Symphony Session** and announce Birch Creek's 2011 concert season, the grand piano used on stage arrives at Birch Creek from Washington Island with its owner, **Peter Nehlsen**, in a bright green 1947 Dodge pickup truck. Above right: During the **Jazz II Session**, **Wisconsin Public Television** recorded a concert and rehearsals for broadcast at a later date. When known, Birch Creek will post the air date on our Web site: [www.birchcreek.org](http://www.birchcreek.org). Right: Drum sets await stage setup in the Dutton Concert Barn for the **Jazz I Session**.



### Prelude Performances

"The past 5 sessions at Birch Creek over the last 3 years have been the most beneficial and influential in my choice of music as a career and lifestyle. Without this magical family I've found here, my life would not be the same." — **Chris Johnson**, 2009–11 Jazz I & II sessions



Above: As concertgoers gather around the Gazebo for a **Jazz I** student combo performance, **Jonathan Eulingborough** (*inset*), Chicago, Ill., awaits the Photo Night picture shoot. Below: WPT videotapes a **Jazz II** combo performance in the Gazebo.



Above: **Percussion & Steel Band** concertgoers enjoy African Djembe drums played by **Luis Herrera-Albertazzi**, San Jose, Costa Rica; **Daniel Beckwith**, Wadsworth, Ill., **Ryan Baumgartner**, Fitchburg, Wis., and (*inset*) **Sarah Householder**, Park Ridge, Ill.



Left: A **Symphony Woodwind Quintet** performs in the Gazebo. Members are: **Joshua Weinberg**, St. Peter, Minn.; **Nellie Black**, Darlington, Wis.; **Michael Aitchison**, Iowa City, Iowa; **Sarah Tako**, Stillwater, Minn.; and **Alessandro Tenorio-Bucci**, La Grange, Ill.

## Faculty and TAs

**Jeff Campbell**, Rochester, N.Y., (Jazz Program Director, bass faculty, Birch Creek Jazz Orchestra Director) has recently been appointed Chairman of the Jazz Department at The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. Jeff assumed this position in Fall 2011.

**Elizabeth Delamater**, Kent, Ohio, (Percussion faculty) completed coursework in Spring 2011 for a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University, Tempe.

**José Encarnacion**, Appleton, Wis., (Jazz tenor saxophone faculty 2001–03) has returned to Lawrence University from the Eastman School of Music to assume a post as Jazz Performance Coordinator, and instructor of jazz & improvisational music.

**Marquis Hill**, Chicago Ill., (Jazz II trumpet TA 2010–11) recently released a CD entitled "New Gospel," featuring Hill on trumpet, **Chris Mc Bride** (Jazz II alto saxophone 2000–01), **Chris Madsen** (Jazz II Ambassadors Director 2011) on tenor saxophone, **Josh Moshier** (Jazz II piano 2002–04), and **John Tate** (Jazz I bass 2003 & Percussion special performer 2005–11).

**Beth Halloin Mc Donald**, Champaign, Ill., (Symphony French horn faculty, mid 80's) teaches privately, performs with several organizations and is the pianist at her church.

**Cody Henry** (Jazz II, trombone TA 2004–10) and his wife, Tamara, announce the birth of their daughter, born during the Jazz II session this summer.

**Reginald Thomas**, East Lansing, Mich., (Jazz II piano faculty) recently accepted a position at Michigan State University College of Music as professor of jazz (piano) in 2011 after nearly 20 years as professor of music at Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville.

## Applause

**Tom Streeter**, Normal, Ill., (Jazz trombone faculty, Academy Band Director, and Program Director through the years 1980–2000) retired this spring after an illustrious 40-year career as professor of music at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington. Streeter developed jazz study courses and launched the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Band at Wesleyan. He also created the Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Festival, now in its 36th year. Streeter and his wife, Tina, plan to relocate to American Fork, Utah.





## Final Chance


At the end of 2011, the Birch Creek Board of Trustees will close the **Final Pitch Phase of the Capital Campaign**, a project that has added three new buildings to our campus and nearly doubled our physical size. If you wish to be among those very special people whose names will be listed on our permanent donor wall in the Melzer Gallery of the Rehearsal Center, please make your contribution or pledge now. Contact Kaye Wagner, Executive Director, to make a new donation or add to your existing pledge at (920) 868-3763.


## Ovations

*Grants for scholarships and operations*  
*Birch Creek gratefully acknowledges the generosity of grantors.*


 **Nancy & Bill Carpenter Scholarship** for a Milwaukee High School of the Performing Arts student was awarded to Ray Simpson, piano, Jazz II.


 **Jane Dalton Scholarship** was awarded to Sonia Urquidi, clarinet, Symphony.


 **Lucille Grams Trust** provided scholarships for Symphony students Jacob Shapiro, oboe, and Samantha Stevens, trombone.


 **Brian Hynes Memorial Scholarship** for a Percussion & Steel Band student was awarded in 2011 to Taylor Knopf.


 **Kiwanis Club of Northern Door County** provided tuition support for Symphony student Nathaniel Patton, percussion.


 **Herb Kohl Charities** continued their long-time support of Birch Creek with a grant to underwrite partial tuition for a Wisconsin student.


 **MMG Foundation** granted Birch Creek several named scholarships in 2011. Scholarships honoring Cynthia Stiehl were awarded to Symphony students Irene Durbak, percussion, and Hanna Bingham, violin; and Percussion & Steel Band students Louis Herrera-Albertazzi and Dillon Mansour. A scholarship named for Margaret Miller Gilson was awarded to Tara Bray, tenor saxophone, Jazz I; and recipient of a scholarship named for the MMG Foundation was Michael Werner, trumpet, Jazz II.


 **Norris-Viney Scholarships**, given annually through a generous private fund, were awarded in 2011 to Eli Broxham, bass and William Sheppard, trombone, both Jazz II students.

 **John and Carolyn Peterson Charitable Foundation** of Madison provides ongoing tuition support for Wisconsin students. Scholarships in 2011 were awarded to Symphony student Lucas Chan, violin; and Jazz II student, Tom Kelley, bass.

 **Raibrook Foundation Scholarship** for a Door County student was awarded to Cassandra Renfrew, harp, Symphony, Sturgeon Bay.

 **Robert Schaupp** Named Scholarship recipients for 2011 were Tom Kelley, trombone, Symphony; and Jazz II students Ben Jones, alto saxophone, and Nick Borger, drums.

 **Bertha "Bert" W. Schenker** Named Scholarship was awarded by her family in her memory to recognize Mrs. Schenker's long-time love of youth symphonies and her gifts to music education. Julianne Kennedy, viola, Symphony, was the 2011 recipient.

 **The Wisconsin Arts Board** awarded Birch Creek a grant for operational support. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that Birch Creek has been supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



 **Stanley R. & Robert E. Wright Foundation for the Arts** awarded 10 tuition scholarships for young artists exhibiting outstanding ability and intending to pursue a career in music. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that Birch Creek has received this award. Recipients were Symphony students Lindsay Katz, violin, Annika Sundberg, viola, Jose Kane, viola, Phillip Lee, cello, Joshua Weinberg, flute, and Nicole Volpe, piano; Jazz I students Anthony Orji, baritone saxophone, Mary Kate Naughton, drums, and Sarah Smith, alto saxophone; and Jazz II student Patrick Specht, baritone saxophone.