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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

IN 2021/22

SHENANDOAH® UNIVERSITY
Shenandoah Conservatory

DEAN'S CIRCLE

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Friend,

THANK YOU! We could have never accomplished so much this academic year without your support.

Once again our students are traveling, competing and doing important public projects. Thanks to the Dean's Circle funding, we were able to provide twenty student development grants. We launched a new program, Contemporary Musicianship & Entrepreneur Development (CMED) and are planning for Shenandoah Conservatory to be home for the future Institute for Contemporary Guitar (ICG).

Yet again, we are taking our students where other conservatories are not. This fall, we go to the Venice Biennale for the world premiere of "Native American Inspirations." During the spring, in partnership with the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV), we created and installed a groundbreaking new sound installation for the MSV Trails. Also new is an updated sound system for Glaize Studio Theatre, new microphones for Ohrstrom-Bryant Theatre and a new suite of instruments for the percussion studio.

I hope you enjoy reading through this annual report because in 2021/22 it was about the phenomenal work we accomplished together and setting the stage for exciting new endeavors. Even more than previously, Dean's Circle members have risen to support our students, our faculty and our conservatory.

With gratitude,

Dr. Michael Stepniak
Dean and Professor of Music
Shenandoah Conservatory

To learn more about the ways you can make a transformative gift to Shenandoah Conservatory, visit su.edu/performs/support or contact:

Melanie L. Mathewes
Shenandoah Conservatory Director of Development
mmathewe@su.edu | (540) 665-4733

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DEAN'S CIRCLE

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2021/22 Year in Review highlights the many projects, from across all divisions of Shenandoah Conservatory, made possible by the Dean's Circle support. This year we built upon the groundwork laid last year for several special projects and initiatives. We were able to address capital improvements to enhance studio and performance spaces. ShenCoLAB, celebrating its fourth year, was again fully funded by the Dean's Circle. In addition to student grants made to those who travel far afield, Dean's Circle also made it possible for twenty students from throughout the conservatory to perform at a variety of community-building events across Winchester. Your support truly makes a difference in the work we do at Shenandoah Conservatory — thank you.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Percussion studio instruments and equipment
- Glaize Studio Theatre sound system
- Ohrstrom-Bryant Theatre microphones

NEW PROGRAMS

- Launch of the Contemporary Musicianship & Entrepreneur Development (CMED) program
- Development of the Institute for Contemporary Guitar (ICG) business and operational plan for Shenandoah Conservatory's guitar program

SHENCOLAB

- Twenty-five project leaders/co-leaders presented twenty-two projects for this year's ShenCoLAB: Festival of Arts, Ideas & Exploration
- More than 250 students — including project leaders, collaborators and taskforce team members — participated in this year's ShenCoLAB

MASTERCLASSES

- Dance: Ballet Hispánico
- Musical Theatre: Rachel Bay Jones
- Jazz: Corcoran Holt '04 (B.M. in Jazz Studies)

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE INSTRUCTION

Forty Shenandoah Conservatory students from a variety of areas of study completed seven Alexander Technique group workshops and one private lesson of one hour each during the Spring 2022 semester. Students reported positive outcomes, including increased body awareness, reduced stress and tension (physically and mentally) and progress over time with regards to interrupting habits and using their bodies more effectively in ways that supported injury prevention or recovery.

> "I am so thankful to have been given this opportunity so I can physically better myself as a musician."
> – *First Year Music Education Student*

> "Thank you for the opportunity to get to know Alexander Technique. I've actually been thinking about seeking an Alexander Technique teacher in the area because of my injuries and it was such a treat to be able to easily receive instruction at/through school."
> – *Doctoral Piano Performance Student*

SHENCO PHOENIX

The class of 2022 Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance majors presented the ShenCo Phoenix Senior Dance Concert as part of their senior capstone project. Performances featured new works produced and created by the dancers, including jazz, commercial and contemporary dance styles. Each unique piece expressed the maturity, tenacity and refinement of each artist's individual creative journey.

MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS OF 2022

The musical theatre class of 2022 created a hybrid senior showcase. An in-person performance showcase was experienced by talent agents on the Shenandoah University campus and a video showcase was shared via social media with those in the musical theatre, acting and entertainment industries. Funding for the videographer and sound engineer for the Shenandoah Conservatory Musical Theatre Senior Showcase 2022 was made possible in part by the Dean's Circle.

MINERVA PROJECT

Professors Rod Vester, Ting-Yu Chen, Carolyn Coulson and Hakeem Leonard are part of a curriculum design team working with the Minerva Project and Associate Provost Amy Sarch to develop four interdisciplinary ShenEd (general education) classes that can be taught in a hybrid or fully online format by faculty members from across Shenandoah University.

DEAN'S CIRCLE

A YEAR IN REVIEW

CONSERVATORY MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Dean's Circle funding helps support Shenandoah Conservatory's robust marketing and communications strategies. These efforts share the extraordinary work produced by our students, faculty and staff during the year and connect our community of artists with local audiences throughout the Shenandoah Valley region and beyond.

The Conservatory Performs website, which shares information for public performances from Shenandoah Conservatory's Conservatory Performs season during the academic year, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre during the summer months, and Conservatory in the Community series, experienced more than 147,000 unique page views throughout the year. More than 22,000 Conservatory Performs 2021/22 season brochures were mailed and approximately fifty different email campaigns were sent to a growing list of more than 16,000 subscribers throughout the year. More than 7,000 people follow Shenandoah Conservatory on Facebook and over 3,000 follow Shenandoah Conservatory on Instagram. These numbers and the impact of our outreach continue to grow each year with the support of the Dean's Circle.

POP MUSIC SUMMIT

The Pop Music Summit supported the additional work of preparing for and engaging in an intensive retreat relating to the future of popular music studies at Shenandoah Conservatory. Ten conservatory faculty and staff leaders participated in the summit, including Carolyn Coulson, Matt Edwards, Kathryn Green, Jennifer Green-Flint, Bronwen Landless, Jeff Marlatt, Matthew Niess, Golder O'Neill, Courtney Reilly and Graham Spice.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY & EQUITY ACTION PLAN

Dean's Circle funding supported Shenandoah Conservatory faculty members Charlie Maybee, Akemi Takayama and Jennifer Green-Flint as they furthered the conservatory's work in inclusion, diversity and equity. It also supported focused workgroups with Amanda Leyva and Sophie Dove.

VENICE BIENNALE

Native American composer Brent Michael Davids was commissioned to provide artistic/cultural expertise for the creation of a new vocal-drama titled "Native American Inspirations," for Shenandoah Conservatory's participation in Biennale Musica (September 16–27, 2022) in Venice, Italy.

FACULTY & DIVISION SUPPORT

CONSERVATORY ACADEMICS

- Composition: Sound design course for Museum of the Shenandoah Valley sound installation
- Music Education: Purchase of Holton H179 Farkas professional model double French Horn
- Music Theory: Rachel Short and Charlene Romano presenting at the Music Theory Pedagogy Conference
- Music Theory: Keith Salley presenting at the annual meeting of Music Theory Midwest
- Music Therapy: Race & #RealTalk; faculty planning, curriculum development and colloquium discussions
- Music Therapy: Supervision for a pilot pediatric clinical in which physical therapy and music therapy students worked collaboratively with disabled children and adolescents
- Recording & Audio Arts: Senior showcase support

DANCE

- Ballet Hispánico residency and re-staging of Venezuelan choreographer Vicente Nebrada's *Batucada Fantástica*

GENERAL

- Music stands
- Professional photo/video equipment
- Scene shop table saw

THEATRE

- License to adapt novel, visiting director and dramaturg work for Acting Incubator Project: *The Song of Achilles*
- Faculty support to further develop and enhance Musical Theatre Accompanying degree program
- James Raymond, Theatre Fellow – Scenic Design

VOICE & OPERA

- American premiere of Germaine Tailleferre's four comic operas, making Shenandoah Conservatory one of the only music college programs worldwide to feature the work of a female opera composer
- Madeleine Boyd, guest scenic director for Spring 2022 Main Stage Opera production
- Research project with voice pedagogy graduate students and faculty presented at Voice Foundation Symposium
- 240 masks with Shenandoah Conservatory logo for vocal students
- Collaborative Arts: Voice & Piano residency with Simon Barrad and Kseniia Polstiankina-Barrad

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

- Gonzalo Hidalgo – associate conductor at Singapore Symphony Orchestra audition
- David Lécuyer – attend Adamant Summer Festival
- Juliana Rivelli – attend Bel Canto immersive training in Tuscany, Italy to supplement Italian language training and receive bel canto style coaching
- Amy Hernandez – attend Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) conference
- Kaelin Walton – attend Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) conference
- Yu-Jen Tsai – develop an online website to teach non-native speakers how to sing Chinese art songs
- Hang Yin-Hang – develop a guitar concert performance tour within China
- Elias Aguirre Ceron – participate in Seagle Festival in Schroon Lake, New York, with roles in *Hello Dolly!*, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Once Upon a Mattress*
- Noah Allen Hardaway – attend Adamant Music School
- Hallie Moore – participate in Commercial Dance Intensive RTW in California
- Abigayle Anderson – enrollment in Earl Mosley Institute of the Arts
- Sheila DuMont – archival research in Paris for an unpublished flute composition by underrepresented female composer Claude Arrieu
- Bixiao Wang – participate in William Lewis School of Opera program in Salzburg, Austria
- Szymon Czerniak – attend Orford and Adamant summer programs
- Kristen Topham – attend Scriabin@150 conference in England
- Edward Cho – concert performance in France
- Alexandra Leary – innovative, collaborative and student-led production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- Qiuyu Li – participate in Varna International Music Academy
- Dasia-Marie Mitchell – collaborative pianist for lessons and juries
- Wei-Han – record tracks for the Venice project

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