Miss Myrtle Woldson, an accomplished businesswoman, musician and philanthropist, bequeathed a $55 million gift to Gonzaga University that includes the construction of a 57,550 square-foot performing arts center. Miss Woldson passed away in 2014. She carried on her family’s tradition of investing, industry and community-giving through a life of discipline, creativity and a sharp intellect. Her legacy in Spokane can also be seen in the many developments that honor parents such as the Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox and the Edwidge Woldson Park.

The performing arts center will break ground in spring 2017 and be completed by winter 2018. Located on the west end of campus, it advances Gonzaga’s legacy of excellence in the performing and visual arts. University President Thayne McCulloh has said that this new facility lays the foundation for a new era in teaching and learning for faculty, students and the Spokane community. The facility will feature a 750-seat performance theatre, a 150-seat recital hall, a welcoming lobby, dedicated instruction areas as well as a space designed to celebrate the life of Miss Woldson.

Overall, the new performance center will foster collaboration across the arts disciplines and serve as a beautiful venue for music, theatre and dance.

Knight of Columbus Building Becomes Music Hall

A fixture since 1957, the Knights of Columbus building was sold to the University in 2014. This fall the building has been renovated and repurposed to serve as the Music Hall. Student practice rooms, faculty teaching studios and music instrument storage are included in the building along with a multi-media classroom and large rehearsal space that may be used as a recital hall.

Music major Nick Roels likes that the new space provides variety of room sizes for students to rehearse and practice. “It’s a step in the right direction,” he says.
Master Class with Cho-Liang Lin

The Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra presented its season opener with legendary violinist Cho-Liang Lin on October 17. He performed on his Stradivarius violin from 1715 named the “Titian”.

On October 16, Mr. Lin spent the evening on the Gonzaga campus teaching a master class. He worked with Gonzaga violin students Alexis Andrus, Rylan Virnig, Chip Mielke and Mikaella Croskrey.

Chip Mielke enjoyed working with Mr. Lin on bow distribution to control the emotion expressed in the playing. In his words, Mr. Lin “was a truly impressive violinist and an excellent teacher. He inspired me to a higher standard.”

Faculty Happenings

Dr. Kevin Hekmatpanah will guest conduct the Coeur d’Alene Symphony on December 2 and 3. The program features Brahms Symphony No. 2 as well as holiday music. He also visited Costa Rica in July to perform recitals, conduct a cello ensemble and give a series of master classes.

Dr. Paul Grove presents excerpts from his lecture “Sympathy for the ‘Diabolus in Musica’, an exploration of the compositional potentialities of set (0,1,6)” at the Northwest Museum of Art & Culture in Spokane. The lecture features music of Brouwer, Carter, Ginastera and Grove. He also performed three pieces for guitar by Hans Werner Henze during Donivan Johnson’s lecture on Shakespeare and Music at the museum on October 29.

At the same museum lecture, compositions by Dr. Kevin Waters, SJ were also performed, in particular his Lines from Shakespeare, a piece for chamber wind ensemble.

Dr. Peter Hamlin’s article on music assessment was published by NafME (National Association for Music Education). He will present on this same topic at the 2016 NafME National In-Service Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

Dr. Amy Porter was the featured soprano soloist in performance of Bach’s Cantata 51: Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen in the St. John’s Music Series concert, “Bach x2: Musical Duos”. Dr. Porter partnered with the Cathedral Collegium Orchestra in this performance.

Darnelle Preston appeared as mezzo soprano soloist for Bach’s motet, “Singet dem Herr neues Lied”, in the same concert. In addition, she served as chorus manager for the auditioned Cathedral Kantorei Choir.

Jason Bell performed the Medelssohn Violin Concerto with the Butte Symphony Orchestra on October 15 and joined the Cathedral Collegium Orchestra in performance of the Duruflé Requiem on November 6 at St. John’s Cathedral in Spokane.
Dynamic Fall for Choir

Dr. Timothy Westerhaus and the Gonzaga Choirs have had a busy Fall between concerts and community projects.

Notably, Gonzaga Choirs hosted the 3rd annual Choir Invitational on October 18. We welcomed 300 students and their choir directors from 6 local high schools for a full day of clinics and a public performance featuring the South African hymn of peace, *Ukuthula*.

The highlight of the day was the Skype conversation with composer Stephen Paulus who shared his experience and reflection on his piece *Hymn for America*, which was also performed by the students.

Music faculty Dr. Peter Hamlin and Darnelle Preston led clinics on vocal technique and world music.

The Choir visited the Seattle area October 28 and 29 to perform concerts at Bastyr University Chapel and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. They also participated in a choral exchange with Bothell High School.

Photos courtesy of Gonzaga University

Congratulations Scholarship Winners

Emily Barville and Megan Shultz have been selected by a faculty panel as the 2016-2017 Gordon Merwin Scholarship recipients. The award recognizes their academic achievement, leadership and contributions to the Gonzaga Music department. Emily is a Music Education major who is active in Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and as a piano accompanist. Megan is also a Music Education major active in Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Women’s Chorus and as a student conductor for the Bulldog Band.

The scholarship honors the memory of Gordon Merwin, a member of the Gonzaga Men’s Glee Club and the Gonzaga Quartet from 1935-1939.
Performance Calendar

Featured Events

Blue Allusions
Gonzaga Wind Ensemble & GU Music Faculty and Friends

Robert Spittal, conductor

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 PM
Hemmingson Center Ballroom
at Gonzaga University

Tickets: http://commerce.cashnet.com/gonzagamus
Or call 509-313-6733
Free to GU Students, Faculty & Staff
$15 general admission
$10 for seniors and non-GU students

www.gonzaga.edu/music

The Gonzaga Jazz Program invites you to a MULTIMEDIA holiday concert!
A Charlie Brown Christmas
and other holiday movie classics

$5, $20, $25, $30
FREE admission for all Gonzaga students, faculty and staff

Thursday, November 30
Live at the Hemmingson Ballroom

www.gonzaga.edu/music

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANDLEDIGHT CONCERT
WITH GONZAGA UNIVERSITY
CONCERT CHOIR & GUESTS
Conducted by Dr. Timothy Westerhaus

Friday, December 9, 7:30pm
Saturday, December 10, 2:00pm
St. Aloysius Catholic Church

Tickets available now
http://commerce.cashnet.com/gonzagamus

For a listing of all Music Department events and academic program information, please see our website and Facebook page (Gonzaga Music Department)

Phone: 555-313-6733
www.gonzaga.edu/music

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