Passion and trickery. Betrayal and loss. These are the elements in the dramatic and tragic love story of Dido and Aeneas brought to the stage by Timothy Westerhaus, Director of Vocal & Choral Studies, and Suzanne Ostersmith, Dance Program Director, in January. Student vocalists, dancers and designers worked with faculty to create the opera production along with Incendo Baroque Ensemble, a group of Pacific Northwest professional musicians playing period instruments.

In addition to four sold-out performances, Dr. Westerhaus and Ms. Ostersmith led a faculty lecture series including speakers from the departments of Classical Civilizations, Religious Studies and English.

In particular, they shared their collaborative research and production process that included information on the different breathing techniques of vocalists and dancers as well as the specifics of Baroque musical composition and dance technique.

The performances featured student vocalists Amanda Rood as Dido, Brittany Holden as Belinda and Nicholas Ferguson Fritschler as Aeneas.

Spokane native and alumna Kaitrin Cunningham ('12) returns to Gonzaga as the guest soprano soloist for the Women's Chorus West Coast premier of Magnificat by Kim Arnesen.

During her academic career at Gonzaga, Ms. Cunningham won the President’s Competition and performed the role of Venus in John Blow’s Venus and Adonis.

She made her European debut in Novafeltria, Italy in Puccini’s La Rondine.

She currently resides in Vienna where she will perform with the Arnold Schönberg Chorus in June.
Kevin Hekmatpanah and the Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra continued their tradition of hosting exceptional soloists during their concerts this Spring with Natasha Paremski and Richard Stoltzman.

Paremski is an acclaimed piano soloist whose international career includes performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna’s Tornkünstler Orchester among many others. She joined the Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra during the February 29th concert that featured her performance of Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3.

Richard Stoltzman will be the special guest during the upcoming concert, April 25. A renowned clarinet virtuoso, Stoltzman is a captivating recitalist and innovative jazz artist. The concert program will feature works by Berlioz, Ravel, Copland, Bernstein and more.

Kevin Hekmatpanah on Natasha Paremski

“She’s a presence, and she’s a fantastic musician, technician and artist.”

Photos courtesy of the artists

International Virtuosos

Master Class with Richard Stoltzman

Saturday, April 23 4pm-6pm
St. Gregory Choral Hall
Free & Open to the Public

Travis Brass Stops at GU on WA State Tour

Robert Spittal, director of bands, invites the public to the Travis Brass concert during their GU stop on their Washington State tour. Travis Brass is the multitalented brass group of the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West.

From a standard march or traditional brass composition to jazz, ragtime and the popular music of today, this group has a diverse repertoire that covers a myriad of styles to exhilarate audiences.

The musicians are active duty personnel-professional musicians working in support of Air Force Mobility Command and the surrounding community.

The concert is free and open to the public, Thursday, April 21, 7:30pm in the Jundt Auditorium on the GU campus.

Photos courtesy of USAF

GSO: Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra

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Successful Dissertation

Congratulations to Amy Porter for a successful defense of her dissertation at Louisiana State University School of Music concerning Thomas Pasatieri’s Bel Canto Songs for Voice and Piano, setting poetry by William Blake.

Dr. Porter teaches applied voice and vocal pedagogy. She presented her research, including performance examples, to a standing-room only audience in March.

Faculty Feature: Paul Grove

Dr. Paul Grove has been praised by audiences, critics, composers and teachers as an outstanding performer and teacher on the classical guitar. His own guitar studies began at age 10 at the Settlement Music School in Philadelphia.

He continued his study at the internationally recognized Peabody Conservatory while he was still in high school. Dr. Grove was the first guitarist to win the prestigious Peabody Concours Competition. He later earned his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona.

His love of music has brought him before enthusiastic audiences throughout the United States, Canada, Russia, Brazil and India. Locally, Dr. Grove has been the guest soloist for performances with the Spokane Symphony, the Coeur d’Alene Symphony and our own Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra.

He received a Jacob Jarvits research grant for his study of Russian music, particularly the music of Sergei Ivanovich Taneev.

As a music educator, Dr. Grove is proud to have mentored students who have won prizes and scholarships in several venues including the Northwest Guitar Competition, MusicFest Northwest and the Portland Guitar Competition as well as Eastman Conservatory, Peabody Conservatory and Arizona State University.

He has several videos on YouTube that exemplify his patient yet firm teaching style as well as his command of a wide variety of guitar repertoire.

Dr. Grove serves on the advisory board for Classical Guitar of MusicFest Northwest. He teaches applied guitar, music theory and ear training at Gonzaga.

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“Paul Grove plays with so much style, flair and sparkle, it’s just a delight”

The Inlander
In the News

The Concert Choir, conducted by Timothy Westerhaus, was selected to perform at the Northwest Division conference of the American Choral Director Association in Seattle on March 5. The choir was joined by Incendo Chamber Orchestra for their standing-ovation performance of Berliner Messe by Arvo Pärt and Dona nobis pacem from B minor Mass by Johann Sebastian Bach.

2015-2016 Merwin Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 Merwin Scholarship recipients Kara Brown and Stacia Cammarano. Kara is studying music education and is active as a trombone performer in the Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble and Bulldog Band. Stacia is also studying music education and has been an active leader in the Concert Choir and Chamber Chorus as well as the Choir Council and Mu Phi Epsilon, the music honor society. Both Kara and Stacia will graduate in May with plans to enter professional music education as ensemble leaders and conductor.

Alumni Update

Anna Frisch (‘15) directs the choir program and teaches liturgical music at Notre Dame Preparatory High School in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Jordan Spicher (‘15) directs the high school choral program for Great Falls Public School in Great Falls, Montana.

Misha Bigos (‘10) records with the jazz quartet, Sophisticated Lady, in Los Angeles on Yarlung Records. His website is www.mishaadair.com

Daniel Houglum (‘06) is an active composer and lecturer on music theory at the University of Hawaii, West Oahu. His website is www.houglum-music.com