

CU Winds

The Wind Ensembles of Cornell University



Uniting Cornell University students who seek remarkable music making through the process of preparing and performing established and emerging wind repertoire in both large and chamber ensembles.

Ease on Down the Road
Semiannual Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spring 2010

Funded by the SAFC

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Hello and welcome to the CU Winds Spring 2010 alumni newsletter! We find ourselves at the end of another busy school year, and with it, many exciting stories to share. The Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony have been up to quite a bit and we hope this newsletter will provide you with a glimpse of everything we have done.

In this issue of the "4-1-1" you will find information on all of CU Winds' activities, including the Wind Ensemble's trip to Costa Rica in January and the Wind Symphony's exciting new direction under Professor Johnston-Turner. We discuss repertoire, social events, and our graduating members reflect on their time in CU Winds. Professor Johnston-Turner shares her thoughts, and we preview the fall, when she will be on study leave. As always, I encourage you to stay in touch with CU Winds by visiting the alumni section of our website, www.cuwinds.com, for the latest updates on concerts, lectures, and other events.

Personally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support of CU Winds. As a graduating senior, I am constantly aware of how lucky I have been to be a part of this incredible organization, and will always think fondly of my time "on the hill" for that reason. I know of no other place where students from such diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines come together to create the caliber of music we hear at Cornell. CU Winds' success is a testament to the past and present work of our alumni and supporters, so again I thank you. Let us hope that the tradition of wind bands at Cornell continues to grow so that future Cornellians have an even greater opportunity to share our joy in the creation of music.

Sincerely,
Wyatt Honse '10
President, **CU Winds**

Contact Information for Fall 2010:

CUWinds
Lincoln Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

Cynthia Johnston Turner
Director (on sabbatical for Fall 2010)
cpj6@cornell.edu
(607) 255-3712

Steve Petersen
Director - Wind Ensemble
speterson@ithaca.edu
(607) 274-3364

Beth Petersen
Director - Wind Symphony
epeterson@ithaca.edu
(607) 274-1934

Emily Dura
Alumni Relations Chair
emd96@cornell.edu

Upcoming Dates!

May 29, 2010: Cornell Commencement!

Join us for our Senior Week concert on the Arts Quad at 2:45pm!

September 25, 2010: Homecoming Weekend - Join us in Lincoln B20 for an open rehearsal!

October 3, 2010: **CU Winds** concert at 3pm

December 3, 2010: **CU Winds** concert at 8pm

Visit www.cuwinds.com for details



Graeme Bailey instructs students in San Isidro on the cello



Grad Steve Jessup instructs children in Limón



Liz Peters '10, Nick Bell '10, Mark Cunningham '11 at a beach in Limón



Liane Moreau '12 leads children in Poas



Cindi gives a master class to future conductors in Pavas

Reflections & Looking Ahead

What a great year! Although (sadly) we have lost the Assistant Director of Wind Ensembles position due to budget cuts this year, I have thoroughly enjoyed the added pleasure of working with the Wind Symphony, in addition to Wind Ensemble. Both ensembles have performed challenging repertoire with distinction and commitment at every concert. I couldn't be more proud of CU Winds' student musicians. The level of excellence continues to rise!

The Costa Rica Project, Part III, was a huge success this year. It gets bigger and better, it seems, and this year was no exception. 95 instruments to five schools, 5 master classes for Costa Rica musicians and ten concerts in twelve days! Plans are already underway for Costa Rica 2012! CU Winds has officially partnered with SiNEM (the National Music Pedagogy System in Costa Rica) so our relationship continues to grow and solidify. Of course, we must thank Ronni Lacroute, official CU Winds member, for her continued support of the project.

At the time of writing this, we have just said "Lebewohl" to Reinhold, Juergan, Gerold, Christian, and Akiko, our Austrian friends from the *Ensemble Paris Lodron Brass Quintet* from Salzburg. A recital in Barnes Hall complete with Lederhosen and Austrian Folk Dancing, and a fabulous concert with CU Winds made their one-week residency with CU Winds a highlight of the year.

We also look forward to Senior Week and Commencement this year, as always! What a privilege it is for the Wind Ensemble to part of this important event. We are honored to be performing for House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, at this year's Convocation ceremony.

I look ahead to my upcoming leave in the Fall with mixed emotions. Whereas I am looking forward to studying in New York City and completing some arrangements, I also know that I will miss teaching and music-making with Cornellians! We are eager to welcome Dr. Stephen Peterson and Dr. Elizabeth Peterson from Ithaca College to conduct the Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony, respectfully. I know we are in for a treat!

Finally, a huge shout-out to this year's CU Winds' Executive, Jason Wright, Elaine Qian, Michael Hurd, Jessica Ye, Elizabeth Peters, Drew Fister, and, El Presidente, Wyatt Honse. Wyatt and Liz, what will I do without you both? Congratulations to you and to all of our graduating seniors. You will be missed by CU Winds but I know you will change the world. Congratulations also to our new CU Winds Executive! This year, we had a record number of CU Winds students run for executive positions. I'm looking forward to working closely with all of you!

-Cynthia Johnston Turner, Director 

Wind Symphony Perspectives – my “Conductor Repertoire”

This year, as usual, was well-stocked with weekly rehearsals, fun and interesting repertoire, and—of course—plenty of quality music. But not as usual, this year was sans Matt Marsit, last year's loving and lovable Wind Symphony conductor. Though I miss him dearly, as I'm sure all of us in the Wind Symphony do, I have to say I've learned and gained a lot from playing under a different conductor, especially one as talented as Professor Turner. Both she and Matt bring in a lot of positive energy and are wonderfully nit-picky with balance, intonation, and articulation. But Prof. Turner's intense discipline, sharp ears, and attention to detail has really hammered home the differences between accents, staccatos, tenutos, slurs, and all of their possible combinations. And with all of her encouragement, I think she has finally gotten the brass section to come out of its shell. Working with her instead of Matt is like playing Beethoven instead of Mozart, and her unbelievably energetic personality has made its mark on Wind Symphony. Thus far, I have had a different conductor each year of Wind Symphony. And next year, the trend will continue with Beth Peterson as our new conductor. Both ensembles will have a chance to play and learn from a different conductor with a different style. Some may find this inconsistency disadvantageous, but I think such change expands our conductor repertoire, which could be as important as musical repertoire. We will all miss Prof. Turner, but hopefully, we'll also broaden our conductor repertoire one more notch by the end of next year—I'll keep you updated.

-Jessica Ye '12

Costa Rica 2010

I will restrict my take on the cultural wonders of Costa Rica to the blog, www.cucostarica.com (a shameless plug, I know), and instead focus on the music program. This was my first experience, but after listening to upperclassmen talk about 2008 and Patrick Yu talk about 2006, I am under the impression that this program is getting bigger and better. We have not only been able to reach out to more communities than ever, but we have had the opportunity to watch certain schools grow under their music programs. In San Isidro especially, we quickly realized that they no longer need anything from us. Their musical capacities are, now, completely self-sufficient. It must have been incredible for Prof. Turner, and musicians who went in 2008, to see this school and others flourish over time. Seeing an improvement in an area is not only encouraging for us and Costa Rica, but also allows us to extend the program to other areas of the country. Limón, an African-Caribbean town, by far needed our resources the most. I am very excited to see how they will respond, in the long-term, to the enthusiasm for music we hopefully brought to the region. While our donations were well-received by all of the schools, reeds break and instruments tire. I am hoping that any changes that take place in these areas are primarily inspired by the reason we, from all different schools and majors, are in Wind Ensemble: a simple love for music.

-Iona Machado '12



Vivian Li '10 has a jam session with a student in San Isidro



Ensemble Paris Lodron performs in Barnes Hall

From the Assistant Conductor (Teaching Assistant)

Being an Assistant Conductor for the Wind Ensemble this semester was truly a great experience. Even young conductors have little opportunity to work with orchestras and big ensembles, so, being a composer, I feel very lucky to have had the chance to work with such a wonderful group of musicians. In only a few rehearsals I got more time on the podium than all my previous conducting experiences combined. I've learned a great deal from the process (indeed sometimes I felt like I needed the practice more than the Ensemble...). Working with Professor Johnston-Turner is highly recommended! Seriously, she is an extraordinary person and musician and I can only be thankful to her for being collegial, down to earth and supportive the way she is. I wish all the members of the ensemble a great summer vacation and best of luck for those who are graduating. Keep on the good work, keep on enjoying making music!

-Amit Gilutz, assistant conductor

Senior Bite

CUWinds has been a defining part of my time at Cornell. Between the music we've played, the tours we've been on, and the people I've met, I couldn't have asked for a better experience. I will really miss everything about CUWinds and hope to find a way to keep playing in such a high caliber, close knit group.

-Liz Peters

Announcements

- A warm welcome to **Steve and Beth Peterson** from Ithaca College! They will be conducting Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony respectively for Fall 2010
- A big **thank you** to Amit Gilutz as our new teaching assistant!
- Listen for our Costa Rica story on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered!*
- Visit our **Costa Rica blog**, www.cucostarica.com for informal perspectives on Costa Rica
- A round of applause to *Ensemble Paris Lodron* for their stunning performance with **CUWinds** at the final concert!
- **Congratulations** to soon-to-be-newlyweds, alumni Margaret Hoctor (Oboe '08) and Dan Nelson (Saxophone '07)!
- If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, please send your email address to emd96@cornell.edu to receive future newsletters by email
- **Best of luck** to our graduating seniors!



Amy Dickinson interviews a student in Desemparados

Senior Bite

It is with great sadness that I leave, but also with great pride that I was able to be a part of such a group. Not everyone has this opportunity; we are the lucky ones.

-Eric Huang

A Very Incomplete, and Somewhat Personal, History of CU Winds

Having been at Cornell for a long time, I'm fortunate to have seen a renaissance for the music department's facilities and growth in its musical offerings. When I arrived at Cornell, Lincoln Hall was a stodgy old building (about half its current size) which housed offices, a much smaller music library, a few classrooms that doubled as smaller rehearsal rooms, and a handful of plastic practice rooms that were about as soundproof as a paper bag. The wind ensembles rehearsed in Bailey Hall, which badly needed a paint job, green rooms, air conditioning, and seats that were tolerable to sit in for more than ten minutes. For concerts we reported to Bailey's dingy basement hallways and warmed up quietly in that dark, dusty echo chamber. Fortunately, after my freshman year, the music department moved to a temporary home in White Hall as Lincoln underwent a complete makeover into the building you see today, and during my junior year funding was approved for renovations to Bailey Hall. Mark Scatterday, the wind ensemble director at the time, helped to shape Lincoln into the excellent teaching and rehearsal space that we take for granted, and his conducting set a high standard for musical excellence in CU Winds that I'm happy to say continues to this day.

I came to Cornell from a high school where jazz and marching were king. I liked playing louder, faster, higher, and my first inclination was to join the programs that were in my comfort zone – the Big Red Band and the jazz ensemble. I quickly found out, though, that at that time there was one elite instrumental ensemble at Cornell – the wind ensemble. I decided to audition for this illustrious group in the spring semester, and that's when I met Mark Scatterday. As the audition got underway, I quickly suspected that my proclivity for playing louder, higher, and faster had preceded me. The first thing I was asked to play was a two-octave F scale. I gave it my best shot, got up to about a high D, floundered around a little, finished the scale, and got on with the audition. Before leaving the room, I asked him what he was thinking in asking me to do such a ridiculous thing (a bit more politely, of course). His response was, “well, you could have played the lower octave” - which, though possible, extends below the natural playing range of the trumpet. Here I was, a second-semester freshman in my first audition at Cornell, and I was put quite firmly in my place. From then on, Dr. Scatterday never stopped challenging me, or anyone else, to grow in musicianship and consistency. He demanded an intense focus throughout rehearsals which, incidentally, leaves an interesting fingerprint in Lincoln even now. Dr. Scatterday didn't like students keeping track of the time during rehearsal, and while he claimed not to want a clock in the Lincoln B20 rehearsal room, he insisted that it be placed in the back corner of the room to keep the time out of the minds of the students. Each time I steal a glimpse back at that clock, I can't help but think that he wouldn't approve.

After my senior year, Dr. Scatterday left Cornell to become the director of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. With other demands limiting my time, I took a break from wind ensemble, perfectly content with playing in the growing jazz program until Cindi Johnston Turner came in to guest conduct the jazz ensemble in the spring of one of her first years at Cornell. At that point, I knew that I had to get back to wind ensemble. There was some excellent music making going on in CU Winds, and there was the promise of an upcoming trip to Costa Rica. I didn't get to experience that first Costa Rica tour, but the ensemble members who had gone came back buzzing about the experience. Fortunately, I've been on the last two wind ensemble Costa Rica tours, and I've shared in the transformative experiences of working with music students who share our language of music but speak another. Cindi deserves a tremendous amount of credit for putting these tours together and for all of the work that she puts into helping us to grow as an ensemble – both musically and socially. I wish that I could pick one moment from the last couple of years that's served as a capstone for my time in CU winds. I guess, for the sake of this story, the best way to wrap it up is to point out that at this semester's final concert ends with an encore of a medley from the Broadway musical *The Wiz*, which I end with a nice, solid high F. Because, after all, despite all that Mark Scatterday did to help me become a better musician, I guess I'm still a louder, faster, higher trumpet player at heart.

-Steve Jessup, Grad



Instrument donations in Limón



Cindi conducts Wind Symphony

Senior Bites

I don't play a wind instrument, and I never used to consider myself a percussionist. I became part of the Wind Ensemble two years ago as a pianist almost by accident, and then I just kept coming to rehearsals every week. It is the one of the best things I have done at Cornell. The music we played are ever so inspiring and fun, the friendships I made are something I truly treasure.

-Vivian Li

Being a member of the wind ensemble for four years at Cornell really shaped my college experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing and performing with all of the lifelong friends I made. Undoubtedly, I will miss playing with such a fantastic group.

-Nick Bell