

## Music and Theater Arts

Music and Theater Arts continues to afford students at MIT the opportunity to experience the unique language and process of the arts. Faculty and teaching staff help students understand art's demand for rigor and discipline and its nonquantitative standards of excellence and beauty. A strong, comprehensive program in both music and theater arts—encompassing history, theory, and performance, and taught by faculty and staff of the highest caliber, whose ongoing professional activities inform their teaching—has been and will continue to be our hallmark. Because it is comprehensive, the academic program continues to produce graduates who have the talent and desire to extend their education in music or theater beyond the undergraduate level.

### Highlights of the Year

In a performance of Brahms' *Ein deutsches requiem*, 150 singers took the stage in Kresge Auditorium as part of the International Choir Exchange between the MIT Concert Choir, directed by lecturer William Cutter, and the University Choir of Lausanne, Switzerland. The exchange was not only musical. The choirs presented a symposium featuring student presentations on research subjects in the life sciences, materials science, and architecture. The University Choir of Lausanne, which is affiliated with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and the University of Lausanne, traveled to MIT for 10 days in April. In May the MIT Concert Choir traveled to Switzerland for 10 days; they performed the Brahms requiem in the Lausanne Cathedral.

The inaugural Edward Cohen Memorial Concert was presented in February. Collage New Music, directed by David Hoose, performed Cohen's *Elegy* and *Sextet*. Additional works by Marjorie Merryman, Seymour Shifrin, and Martin Boykan were also part of the program. Music and Theater Arts established a memorial fund in senior lecturer Cohen's name to support performances of his music and performances of new music by current composers both within and outside MIT.

This year the MIT Guest Artist Series began a two-year concert series commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Six world-renowned string ensembles are taking part in the series. Robert R. Taylor professor Marcus Thompson will perform one of the six Mozart viola quintets with each of the ensembles. This past year the series welcomed the St. Petersburg String Quartet, the Endellion String Quartet, and the Biava String Quartet.

Music and Theater Arts' cocurricular performance group Dramashop, which began as a student group well before Music and Theater became a section, celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. Alumni from the past 50 years were invited to attend a brunch and a special performance of Jean Anouilh's *Leocadia* directed by senior lecturer Michael Ouellette and performed by Dramashop. Dramashop also undertook its first tour, traveling to England in June and presenting performances in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, and Bristol.

## Honors and Awards

Institute Professor John Harbison was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Small Ensemble Performance category for Collage New Music's recording of his *Mottetti di Montale*. Released on the Koch label, the recording features David Hoose conducting mezzo-sopranos Janice Felty and Margaret Lattimore with an ensemble of nine instrumentalists.

Class of 1949 professor Ellen Harris received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for her upcoming book on George Frideric Handel. Harris also received the Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize. The award, named for the founder of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, is given annually to a member of the MIT community whose creative work reflects the vision and values of Kepes, who was celebrated for his work exploring the relationship between art and science.

Associate professor Dante Anzolini was selected to participate in the American Symphony Orchestra League's National Conductor Preview. From a field of 220 conductors, 22 were chosen to take part in the preview performances.

Associate professor Patricia Tang received an American Association of University Women Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Assistant professor Jay Scheib received a grant through the National Endowment for the Arts Theater Communications Group Career Development Program.

## Program Highlights

Enrollments in Music and Theater were 1,000 and 308, respectively, for a total of 1,308. Music and Theater Arts continued to host the MIT Chapel Series, a successful concert series featuring local solo and group performers. The MIT Wind Ensemble, conducted by lecturer Frederick Harris, presented *Inspirations and Influence: Celebrating Gunther Schuller*, an evening of music honoring Schuller's 80th birthday. The MIT Composers Concert included music by Professor Peter Child, lecturer Elena Ruehr, Assistant Professor Brian Robison, Harris, and Harbison. The MIT Faculty Recital Series included Child and the New England Philharmonic with Richard Pittman, conductor, in a performance of Child's *Americana* and *The Sifting: Three Verses of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* with the Simmons College Chorale. Lecturer Mark Harvey performed in the series with his Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, presenting new works for jazz orchestra including Harvey's *Booboisie Suite*.

MIT's Gamelan Galak Tika, directed by Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of music and section head Evan Ziporyn, welcomed visiting artist Dewa Ketut Alit in a performance of new works by Alit as well as traditional Balinese music and dance. Professor Thomas DeFrantz presented *House Music Project*, an interactive, improvisational performance combining digital technology and African American dance. DeFrantz wore a custom-constructed, sensor-driven, wireless body pack that allowed him to manipulate audio and video feeds as part of the improvisational dance. Visiting artist and lecturer Edisa Weeks presented an original dance theater work in collaboration with the Dance Theater Ensemble. The MIT Chamber Chorus, directed

by Cutter and in collaboration with Ouellette as stage director, presented an evening of opera scenes and choruses celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. Excerpts from *Così fan tutte*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, and *Die zauberflöte* were performed.

## Achievements

Child began his Music Alive residency with the Albany Symphony Orchestra. The Bank America Celebrity Series commissioned *Revoicing Echoes*, and the Albany Symphony Orchestra commissioned and performed *Adirondack Voices*. The Lydian Quartet premiered the *Concerto for Harpsichord and String Quartet* with Maggie Cole as soloist.

DeFrantz guest lectured at the American Dance Festival at Hollins University and was coconvenor for the Black Performance Theory Group at Williams College. His article "Composite Bodies of Dance: The Repertory of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater" was published in *Theatre Journal* 57. He performed *The House Music Project* at the University of Texas in Dallas and *Encounters* at the Centre National de la Danse in Paris.

Harbison saw a number of premieres this past year. The New York Philharmonic premiered *Milosz Songs* with Dawn Upshaw, soprano. The Cantata Singers premiered *But Mary Stood*, and the Houston Symphony Orchestra premiered *Concerto for Bass Viol.* He was director of the Festival of Contemporary Music and chair of the composition department at the Tanglewood Institute. He became president of the Aaron Copland Fund for Music. He received commissions for future works from the New England Conservatory, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Rockport Chamber Music Festival.

Harris lectured for the Mostly Mozart Festival and Great Performances at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Professor Lowell Lindgren published review essays in *Newsletter of the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music*, *IL Saggiatore Musicale*, and *Die Musikforschung*. He was advisor for *Recercare*, the Italian journal of musicology, and a member of the board of directors of the American Handel Society.

Associate professor Janet Sonenberg continues as consultant to the Royal Shakespeare Company, collaborating with playwright Adriano Shaplin on a new work for the company.

Thompson performed at the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, the Sitka Summer Music Festival, and the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego. He performed with the Boston Chamber Music Society at the New England Conservatory, Harvard College, Brown University, and the Chamber Music Society of New York.

Ziporyn has been commissioned to create a new work for Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road Project. The Pew Foundation has commissioned a concerto for gamelan and strings to be performed with the Philadelphia Classical Orchestra. His group Gamelan Galak Tika completed a successful multicity tour of Bali, where the group performed many of his

works in collaboration with top Balinese gamelans and choreographers. He was in residence with the Bang on a Can Summer Music Institute at MassMoca.

Anzolini saw publication of his piano version of Schoenberg's *Variations*, the first version for piano approved by the Schoenberg Estate. He was guest conductor for the Linz, Austria, Bruckner Orchestra in a series of performances and conducted the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Choral Arts Society of Washington at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with guest soloists Samuel Ramey and Kelley Nassif.

Tang saw the publication of two articles, "Telling Histories: Memory, Childhood and the Construction of Modern Griot Identity" and "Negotiating Performance in Senegalese Popular Music." She has a new recording on Nomadic Wax with Lamine Toure and Group Saloum.

Robison was in residence at the MacDowell Colony. He presented a paper at the national meeting of the Society for Music Theory.

Scheib presented his latest work, *This Place Is a Desert*, based on Antonioni's *Red Desert*, as part of a festival of theater works at the Martin E. Segal Theater Center in New York.

Senior lecturer David Deveau performed in the Bank of America Celebrity Series in Jordan Hall. He performed solo recitals at Dartmouth College, Gordon College, and the Rockport Chamber Music Festival. He presented the world premieres of two new works by MIT composers, *Child's Revoicing Echoes* and Harbison's *Abu Ghraib*. He continued his annual touring with clarinetist Richard Stoltzman and remained as artistic director of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival.

Senior lecturer Martin Marks guest lectured at Carnegie Mellon University. He was a panelist for the International Film Music Forum at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival in Italy. He presented *Music, Magic and Early Cinema: A Program of Six Films with Live Piano Accompaniment* at a conference on film music at the University of Sheffield, England. He lectured and performed at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, presenting his own arrangements of scores for several films.

Senior lecturer George Ruckert presented a series of performances with his group Heritage of the Arts of Southasia featuring Indian music and dance.

Senior lecturer Pamela Wood continues as a faculty member at the Kodaly Music Institute at the New England Conservatory for its summer program. She performed with Aardvark Jazz Orchestra at Emmanuel Church.

Cutter is chorus master and associate conductor for the Boston Lyric Opera Company and continues as choral director at Boston Conservatory.

Harris was guest conductor for the Jazz Ensemble at the Southeast District Senior Festival. He was assistant conductor for the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artist's Program.

Harvey presented a concert series at Emmanuel Church with the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Duke Ellington Sacred Concerts. He composed seven new works commissioned for jazz orchestra, including *Vistas*, premiered at the Eli and Edythe L. Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. He was named to the advisory board of JazzBoston.

Lecturer Jean Rife performed in numerous venues, including the Apple Hill Chamber Music series and the International Horn Workshop at Indiana University.

## **Personnel**

Patricia Tang was promoted to associate professor without tenure on July 1, 2005. Janet Sonenberg was approved for promotion to full professor effective July 1, 2006. She was also appointed section head for Music and Theater Arts effective July 1, 2006. Six members of our full-time faculty and teaching staff of 20 belong to underrepresented minority groups or are women.

**Evan Ziporyn**

**Section Head**

**Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Music**

*More information about Music and Theater Arts can be found at <http://mit.edu/mta/www/>.*