Dear friends of Gordon music,

Yet another wonderful year has passed and we continue to give thanks to God for his blessings and provision for the Department of Music. Please enjoy these photo highlights from 2016–2017, and meet some of our outstanding faculty and students. It has been a year of innovative music-making, world-class guest artists, exceptional student opportunities, faculty achievements and more. Stay connected and please visit our website for information about our upcoming 50th anniversary year.

We hope to see you soon at an on-campus concert!

Blessings,

Dr. Sarita Kwok
Chair, Department of Music

Ten string-music majors traveled to Seoul and Hong Kong for an eight-day, whirlwind tour in May 2017 with Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Susan Kim and Dr. Sarita Kwok. The tour was fully funded by a generous anonymous donor. Highlights included outreach and cultural exchange opportunities with Seoul El Sistema, Seoul Foreign School and Sejong University (pictured).

Another successful year for the Men’s Choir included a two-day trip to Albany, NY, for a concert and worship service at Capital City Rescue Mission (pictured), a nonprofit organization dedicated to whole-person care for the region’s homeless, as well as worship at the Bethlehem Community Church in Delmar, NY.

The Women’s Choir, under the direction of Faith Lueth, gave much-appreciated performances at Westgate Church in Weston, MA (pictured), and the Community Congregational Church in Billerica, MA. Total Praise, a special CD of praise hymns featuring the Women’s Choir, Children’s Choir and Dr. Grace Eunhae Lee on piano, is now available at the Gordon Bookstore.

String music majors performed at numerous venues in Hong Kong while on tour, including St. Paul’s Coeducational College, International Christian School, Kowloon International Baptist Church and, for their final concert, the Celeste Series at All Saints’ Cathedral (pictured).
Kristopher Tong, violinist for the Borromeo String Quartet, gave an insightful and motivating master class for Gordon string students and chamber groups. He is pictured here working with violinist and music performance major Levi Bradshaw ’18.

The Gordon College Choir kept an active schedule in 2016–2017 with performances at the Homecoming Awards Ceremony, NEXT Summit, a workshop at Yale University with Yale Glee Club Director Dr. Jeffrey Douma, two morning worship services at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia and a friendship concert with the Glen Urquhart School in Beverly, MA.

Metropolitan Opera soprano Katherine Whyte returned to Gordon College for yet another inspiring master class for voice majors. She is pictured here working with Ivan Shiu ’20 (music education). We are pleased to announce that Ms. Whyte joined Gordon’s applied voice faculty in fall 2017.

One of the world’s leadings quartets, the Borromeo String Quartet—artists-in-residence at the New England Conservatory and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and former winners of the Avery Fisher Career Grant—performed a program of works by Mozart, Ades and Beethoven for the Alton C. Bynum Recital Series. As a first for the Borromeos and the Department of Music, this concert live-streamed on Facebook.

All three Department of Music choirs are featured on this CD of choral highlights from the 2016–2017 season. The production of the CD was fully funded by a generous grant from the Plansoen Foundation.
Tenor Travis Benoit '18 (music performance) was the winner of the Department of Music’s 2017 concerto competition. He was selected to sing a number of roles with the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, MA, for the summer 2017 and was also chosen to participate in the Classical Singing and New York in June (2017) immersion opera program with Juilliard faculty members. He received a Gordon College undergraduate research grant to fund these summer ventures.

Congratulations to saxophonist Shawna Beall '18 (music education), who was one of only three winners selected at the 5th Annual New England Band Association’s Solo Competition. She performed as a soloist on April 1, 2017, at the annual New England Intercollegiate Band Concert hosted by Rhode Island College.

Congratulations to pianist and composer Alec Sennott '18 (music education), whose original composition, “Dance of the Oni,” was selected by the Eastern Division of the National Association for Music Education for performance at the Young Composer Concert at the Eastern Division Conference in April 2017.

The Boston Symphony Brass Quintet, featuring the principal brass players of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, performed an audience-pleasing program with works by Anthony Plog and Jan Bach, and arrangements by Telemann, Vivaldi and Orland Gibbons to a full house in Phillips Recital Hall.

The Department of Music celebrated the 26th anniversary of the Gordon College Christmas Gala. This annual event is a time-honored tradition at Gordon and a worshipful celebration of the birth of Jesus. Both performances were sold out. To mark the anniversary, the Department commissioned a new Christmas medley by Robert Bradshaw.
Dr. Sarita Kwok’s CD *In the Moment* featuring the Arabella String Quartet was released by Naxos Records in May 2017. It was named “CD of the week” by ClassicFM and described as “an album well-worth dipping into, exceptionally well played.” This past summer, Dr. Kwok performed at the Rockport Festival and Monadnock Music. In April 2017, she was featured on WCRB with Mistral Music as a part of Mistral’s 20th anniversary season celebration.

Dr. Sandra Doneski, dean of faculty and director of undergraduate and graduate music education, took office as president of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association on July 1, 2017. She was also invited to speak at the NAfME National Assembly in Washington, D.C., about mentoring beginning music educators. Earlier in the year, she led professional development workshops for K-12 music educators in Sioux City, IA.

Gordon College’s 2016–2017 Collegiate NAfME Board, comprised of music education majors Christopher Molinaro ’18, Rebecca Reed ’18, Faith McKinley ’19 and Sarah Zahorodni ’19, traveled to Grapevine, TX, for NAfME’s National In-Service Conference. They also led an instrument drive to benefit local public schools and organized a Massachusetts Music Education Advocacy Day at the Massachusetts State House in Boston.

Dr. Jamie Hillman, assistant professor of music, was invited to adjudicate at festivals hosted by WorldStrides OnStage, Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association, RI ACDA, Fantastic Festivals, Great East and Music in the Parks. He was one of two North American conductors invited to be on the jury of the 6th Bali International Choir Festival in Indonesia (pictured). This season, he guest conducted at Ontario Christian High School’s choral festival and Boston University’s Tanglewood Institute in Lenox, MA.
Ellen Michaud Martins, instructor of horn, joined the Department in fall 2015. She serves on the faculties of the University of Massachusetts Lowell and the Indian Hill Music School. Recently she assumed the position of chair of woodwinds and woodwind chamber music at New England Conservatory Preparatory School.

In June 2017 Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Mary Montgomery-Koppel’s composition “Mother of Exiles,” a setting of the inscription on the Statue of Liberty, was premiered by the Lorelei Ensemble in Boston. The Boston Globe praised the work as “haunting and hopeful.” Dr. M-K, as she is affectionately known by her students, teaches Composition, Instrumentation and Arranging, Songwriting for Worship and Music History.

Faith Lueth had an article published in the Massachusetts Music Educators Journal (summer 2017) on “Teaching Chorus for Impact for Life.” She served as an adjudicator for the Great East Music Festivals and as a choral clinician for the Chelmsford, Hopkinton and Bridgewater Middle Schools.

Rafael Popper-Keizer, instructor of cello, has been hailed as “imaginative and eloquent” by the New York Times and a “local hero” by the Boston Globe. He is one of Boston’s most sought-after cellists and serves as principal cellist of the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and Boston Philharmonic. He is an artist member of Emmanuel Music, Chameleon Arts Ensemble, Winsor Music and Monadnock Music. In June 2017, Mr. Popper-Keizer was appointed as an artist member of the Grammy nominated ensemble, A Far Cry.

Dr. Andrey Karpyuk joined the Department of Music in fall 2015 to teach all sections of Piano Proficiency. Dr. Karpyuk holds degrees from the Hartt School of Music, the University of Hartford and the University of Connecticut. He has served on the faculty of Eastern Connecticut State University, the Hartt School Community Division and Manchester Community Music School.

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Thirty-five summers-only Master of Music Education students spent five intensive weeks on campus in June and July immersed in opportunities to improve music teaching and learning at all levels. Additionally, the Graduate Music Education program welcomed nationally recognized guest lecturers and workshop clinicians such as Dr. John Feierabend, Dr. Christopher Azzara, Dr. Robert Hasty and Dr. T. Clark Saunders to provide access to the most current and advanced research in pedagogical techniques, curricular development and assessments in music education.

The Music Mania community workshop program provides a free opportunity for the youngest students in Gordon’s surrounding communities to experience a high quality, sequential musical learning program. Rising junior music education majors were challenged to lead the workshop, working collaboratively and creatively together under the guidance of experienced faculty. More than 70 students participated on two consecutive Saturdays in April and May, representing 16 towns on the North Shore.

Four music education majors from Gordon—Rebecca Reed ’18, Faith McKinley ’19, Laura Schulz ’19 and Emma Ferguson ’19—attended the NAfME Hill Day Collegiate Advocacy Summit 2017 in Washington, D.C., advocating with senators and representatives for music education. Here the Gordon students are pictured with other student representatives from Massachusetts outside Senator Elizabeth Warren’s office.

The Gordon Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Jong-Hun Bae, enjoyed another successful season with performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 8, Wagner’s Siegfried Idyll, Mendelssohn’s Sinfonia X and Mahler’s Adagietto. The GSO also enjoyed its first ever run-out as an ensemble to the Whitinsville Christian School in Whitinsville, MA. Gordon and Whitinsville students performed for each other and joined together for a workshop with Dr. Bae (pictured).
Acclaimed pianist, composer and educator Warren Lee performed at the Fine Arts Convocation in November 2016, spoke about his faith and life as a musician during a panel discussion, and worked with the Men’s Choir and select piano majors. Mr. Lee has been a Steinway artist since 2009. In recognition of his significant contributions to the music profession, Mr. Lee received the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in Hong Kong in 2012, an associateship from the Royal Academy of Music in 2015 and the Ian Mininberg Distinguished Alumni Award from the Yale School of Music in 2017.

The Lee Trio, an award-winning piano trio of three sisters, performed for the Department at our Convocation in March 2017, and shared about their lives and faith journeys with Gordon music students during an informal Q&A session. Each member of the Lee Trio is a recipient of the California State Assembly Recognition for Exemplary Service to the Community. In recent seasons, the Trio has given recitals and master classes in cities such as Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, San Francisco, New York, Toronto, London, Copenhagen, Berlin, Paris and Kiev.

The Coy Pond Piranhas continue to thrill audiences and fill Phillips Recital Hall concert after concert. The Jazz Ensemble’s spring concert featured original compositions by Dan Arsenault, a trumpet solo by Willens Jean-Jules ’17 on Antonio Carlos Jobim’s Desafinado and vocal solos by Travis Benoit ’18 and Rebecca Reed ’18. Also featured were selections written by Miles Davis, Woody Herman and Chuck Mangione.

The Gordon College Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band joined forces for an outstanding Pops concert in May 2017 under the direction of Dr. David Rox. The concert featured student swing dancers Sydney Cooney ’18 and Evan Platzer ’18, guest conductors Nalani Fujiwara and Luke Deardorff ’13 (music education), and a performance by the church choir from First Congregational Church of Hamilton, MA, in a performance of John Williams’ Hymn to the Fallen from Saving Private Ryan. Also featured was music from Les Miserables and The Sound of Music.