Dr. William Meckley Retiring After 34 years

Dr. William Meckley is retiring after 34 years of service in the School of Music. During that time, he was active as a faculty member, teaching in nearly every aspect of the music program. Besides conducting the acclaimed SCCC Jazz Ensemble, Dr. Meckley taught conducting, brass techniques and performance, music history, trombone, and jazz history. Under his leadership as Department Chair/Dean the School of Music continued to thrive and develop. He was instrumental in the creation of transfer agreements with numerous four-year schools permitting SCCC music graduates to

Brett L. Wery Named Dean of the School of Music

Brett Wery will assume leadership of the SCCC School of Music this summer, following the retirement of Dean William Meckley. Wery has served as professor of music at SUNY Schenectady County Community College for 25 years. He is a recipient of the SCCC Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching as well as the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the SUNY Chancellor’s award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. Wery conducts the SCCC Wind Ensemble and is the Music Director of the Capital Region Wind Ensemble.

An active composer/arranger and member of ASCAP and SCI, Mr. Wery has had works performed on three different continents. Recently premiered works include Making the Darkness Conscious for Tenor Saxophone and Wind Ensemble, Sonata for Multiple Woodwinds, and his Sonata for Soprano Saxophone which was premiered by SCCC alumni, Samuel Detweiler at the North American Saxophone Alliance annual conference. Mr. Wery is a freelance clarinetist/saxophonist and has performed with many area orchestras and ensembles including the Empire Jazz Orchestra, Dogs of Desire, Albany Symphony, and Schenectady Symphony.

Mr. Wery received his M.A. from the University of Denver where he studied Instrumental conducting and saxophone performance. His Bachelor of Music degree is from the North Carolina School of the Arts where he studied clarinet performance with Robert Listoken.

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Dr. Meckley continued

easily transfer. Dr. Meckley oversaw both the development of the Music Audio Technology program and the new School of Music building addition with its recording studio and audio editing facilities. Four years into the new program, alumni have successfully transferred or moved directly into careers in the music industry.

Dr. Meckley has also made essential connections with members of the local community and greater music community leading many to support the School of Music through scholarships and grants that have permitted the purchase of instruments, furnishings, and classroom technology. His creative efforts as director of the Empire Jazz Orchestra gifted the public and the college community with professional jazz performances and guest artists of the highest caliber.

Generations of students have expressed the profound impact Dr. Meckley made in their lives. In honor of his leadership a music scholarship has been established in his name. Donations to the scholarship can be made in his honor through the SCCC Foundation. Dr. Meckley has been positive force in directing the School of Music and he will be greatly missed.

**The Empire Jazz Orchestra “Finale”**

The Empire Jazz Orchestra presented its final concert as the Jazz Repertory Ensemble in Residence at SCCC at 8 pm on April 17, 2018. The concert brought to a close the EJO’s 25th Anniversary year. EJO Director William Meckley will be retiring following the performance.

“Finale” featured music by Duke Ellington, Oliver Nelson, Maria Schneider, Jim Corigliano, Keith Pray, and others. The concert also featured the return of several EJO alumni as guest soloists including Leo Russo, saxophone; Vito Speranza, trumpet; and Cliff Brucker, vibraphone.

There will be a “Finale” CD featuring the best live performances of EJO, over the last few years, available for sale soon. Information will be on the website: http://sunysccc.edu/Academics/School-of-Music/-Empire-Jazz-Orchestra.

**Capital Region Wind Ensemble**

The March Capital Region Wind Ensemble concert, under the direction of Professor Bret Wery, will featured Michael Burritt, Professor of Percussion at the Eastman School of Music, as guest soloist on Jeff Tyzik’s “Riffs, for Solo Drum Set and Wind Ensemble”. The concert also featured 43 students representing eighteen regional high schools in the CRWE’s annual “side-by-side” concert performing *Suite of Old American Dances* by Robert Russell Bennett. Music by Shostakovich, Bernstein, and Ryan George were also on the program.

CRWE’s final performance for the semester, “Release the Hounds” will be featuring Jacqueline Wright, flute, for a performance of Joel Pluckett’s *Into the Clouds* from *The Shadow of Sirius*. The program will include *Dance Suite for Wind Ensemble* by Brett L. Wery. SCCC professor, Dean Bennett will join the group to narrate Scott Watson’s *Aesop’s Fables*. The concert concludes with Alfred Reed’s *The Hounds of Spring*. Please join us on May 20, 2018 at 3:00 pm, Tickets are General Admission $10, non SCCC students $8, and SCCC students w/ID free.

*For more information or tickets please contact the School of Music at 518.381.1231 ext 2*

*Also be sure to visit our website at www.sunysccc.edu/music*
**Alumni News**

**Adam Flock** won a trumpet position in a Marine Band. Adam recently completed basic training and is currently attending the Naval School of Music. Following the school he will be assigned to a Marine Band post. **Jason Decker** (tuba) is completing his twelfth year teaching instrumental music for the Letchworth Central School District. Jason is also a member of the Houghton College adjunct faculty, where he teaches tuba lessons. **Sam Detweiller** has completed a Doctor of Music Arts degree in saxophone performance at Arizona State University. Part of his dissertation was an analysis of Professor Bret Wery’s *Sonata for Soprano Saxophone* which Sam premiered at the 2018 North American Saxophone Alliance held at the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. **Kira Garvey** will be graduating from Boston University this spring with a degree in organ performance. She has received a graduate assistantship at Indiana University where she will pursue a master’s degree in organ performance and sacred music, starting in the fall of 2018. **Sarah Romeo** (voice) recently graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor’s degree in Professional Music from the Berklee College of Music. While attending Berklee Sarah served as both a tutor and supervisor in the school’s Core Music Tutoring Center. Sarah plans on continuing her studies by pursuing a master’s degree in jazz performance. **Vito Speranza** (trumpet) has retired from the U.S. Military Academy Band where he was a member of the Army Jazz Knights. Vito was a guest soloist with the Empire Jazz Orchestra on its Finale concert, performing Duke Ellington’s “Portrait of Louis Armstrong.” **Stephanie Zhang** (saxophone) has been accepted into the Master of Music degree program in music education, conducting emphasis at Colorado State University.

**Faculty News**

**Dr. Allyson Keyser** and trumpet student **Todd Dubrey** performed in Virgil Thompson’s and Gertrude Stein’ opera, *The Mother of us All* at Hudson Hall in Hudson, NY. The opera, about Susan B. Anthony and the women’s suffrage movement, was cited as one of the “Top Ten” performances of the year by the New York Times. **Clifford Brucker** released his second CD as leader of the group “Full Circle.” *Full Circle Volume II* features Leo Russo on saxophone. SCCC music faculty member **Dylan Canterbury** performs on trumpet with the group. *Full Circle Volume II* was recorded in the Vianna-Brignoa Recording Studio in the SCCC School of Music and co-produced by music faculty member **Sten Isachsen**.

**Dylan Canterbury** is an editor for EJazz Lines Publications and played a key role in the company’s restoration project of Duke Ellington’s masterwork, *Black, Brown and Beige*. His work has largely consisted of researching and analyzing Ellington’s original manuscripts and parts in order to best recreate the magnum opus as Ellington originally intended. Canterbury’s own original composition “Starsign,” was also recently published under the company’s Walrus Music Publications side label.

Piano faculty members **Mark Evans** and **Gili Melamed-Lev** have released their first CD, *The Evans-Lev Duo* recorded at Cedar House Recording Studios in New Hampshire. The CD includes the premier recording of *Madrigal Fanfare* by Philip Lasser, and music by Brahms and Dvorak. **Bret Wery** had several of his compositions premiered recently. His *Sonata for Four Guitars* was performed by the Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet. Professor Wery’s *Sonata for Soprano Saxophone* was premiered at the Biennial Conference of the North American Saxophone Alliance, held at the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music by SCCC music alumnus Samuel Detweiler. Detweiler is currently completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Arizona State University.
School of Music Organ Dedicatory Recital

In 2017 The SCCC School of Music was the recipient of a magnificent Allen Organ. The two-manual digital organ was a gift from Jeannette and Larry Storch, as well as from Jeannette’s mother Harriet Dearden, a widely known, Juilliard-trained professional organist.

The School of Music presented a dedicatory recital featuring School of Music Instructor of Organ Alfred Fedak. The recital also featured Petia Kassarova, Instructor of Cello performing music of Fedak, and William Meckley performing the Concerto for Alto Trombone by Georg Christoph Wagenseil. Susan Hermance Fedak sang Pie Jesu (from Requiem, Op.9 by Duruflé) while being accompanied by Kassarova and Fedak.

Digital Music Lab Named for Eleanor & Eugene Rowland

The SCCC School of Music Digital Lab has been named for music patrons Eleanor and Eugene Rowland. The Rowlands are long-time friends of the School of Music, having attended many concerts and events over past years. The Rowland Digital Lab features computer stations equipped with AVID Pro Tools and Sibelius music software that is used by students in all of the School of Music programs.