Building for Future Generations

Honor the past. Shape the present. Imagine the future.

Three powerful thoughts frame dialogue and strategic planning in our celebrated Jazz Studies Department as the faculty and their colleagues discuss future directions. In many ways, their aspirations are those that motivate all of us in the Jacobs School of Music as we chart our course through the 21st century.

We eagerly anticipate the completion of the new Faculty Studio Building next year. It holds the promise of an era in which state-of-the-art facilities and leading-edge technology combine, enabling faculty, students and colleagues to connect and communicate anywhere in the world.

The breathtaking changes in communications technology over the past few years have already fundamentally changed our relationship with the outside world through IUMusicLive!—high-definition live-streamed performances from the Musical Arts Center stage—and now, as we develop pilot projects that connect teaching studios with classrooms and living rooms anywhere in the world, we anticipate exciting possibilities, unbounded by time or place.

And yet, with the excitement of a new era dawning, we are constantly reminded of how the legendary values of the Jacobs School continue to sustain, nourish, and inspire us. In honor of those who have passed, this issue of IUMusic remembers the extraordinary lives of David Aiken, Gerald H. Doty, Frederick Fox, Marion Hall, Paul Kiesgen, Oswald Ragatz, Douglas Strong, Giorgio Tozzi, and Camilla Williams. The lives they and others have led continue to provide the bedrock upon which we stand. In many ways, they continue to make us who we are.

We celebrate the present with the new ideas and inspiring accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni. From the recent announcement of Distinguished Professor Menahem Pressler’s award from the queen of Spain, to the many major professional appointments of our students, to Booker T. Jones’ Grammy win for Best Pop Instrumental Album, we treasure the ways in which the Jacobs School permeates all aspects of music across the United States and beyond.

Witnessing new generations contemplate a future that spans the globe across cultural barriers is awe inspiring. As Leonard Tan, a Ph.D. student in music education from Singapore suggests in his video interview (see pg. 29), “Without the music of the past, there would be no music of the present. I hope that my research that cuts through cultural and geographical borders can form a solid foundation for instrumental music education, both for the East and West.”

We look to the future with equal enthusiasm as we welcome the Pacifica Quartet, baritone Wolfgang Brendel, opera coach Kimberly Carballo, musicologist and director of CHMTL Giuliano Di Bacco, recording arts professionals Mark Hood and Douglas McKinnie, organist David Kazimir, musicologist Michael Long, music education researcher Peter Miksza, opera coach Kevin Murphy, soprano Heidi Grant Murphy, organist Bruce Neswick, band director Eric Smedley, percussionist Michael Spiro, cellist Peter Stumpf, and composer Aaron Travers, as well as Thomas Wieligman, as he takes on a new faculty position (see pg. 34).

A new organ in Alumni Hall opens new opportunities for us to serve IU Bloomington and the surrounding community with more than 1,100 performances each year.

Our future would not be possible without the dedication, support, and generosity of our many loyal supporters. A recent transformational $1.9 million gift from the estate of Anne and Paul Plummer to the Jazz Studies Department (see pg. 5) is a fitting example of how the dedication and commitment of our faculty, students, and alumni is seen and supported by our larger family.

Distinguished Professor David Baker reminded us of a Greek proverb upon hearing of the unexpected gift, “A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit.” We live in transformative times, and it is inspirational to know that those who make up the Jacobs School of Music and its extended family celebrate music and dance at the highest level.

Gwyn Richards
Dean, IU Jacobs School of Music