Parnas Sisters
Winning Duo

Violinist Madalyn Parnas (left) has been named a 2012 Marshall Scholar. Valued at over $60,000, the scholarship pays for graduate study at any university in the United Kingdom, including fees, living expenses, fares to and from the U.S., and grants for books, research, daily travel, and a thesis. She plans to complete an accelerated course of study for a master’s degree from the Royal Academy of music in one year, studying under Hungarian violinist György Pauk.

From Dec. 5-9, 2011, cellist Cicely Parnas (right) and accompanist Kati Gleiser, appeared on American Public Media’s Performance Today, the most-listened-to classical music radio show in America. Both Parnas, a student of Sharon Robinson, and Gleiser, a student of Menahem Pressler, were featured in performance, and Parnas was interviewed by host Fred Child as part of American Public Media’s Young Artist in Residence Program.

Download music and watch videos of the students at performance.today.publicradio.org.

Madalyn, 21, and sister Cicely, 19, also perform together as duo parnas. View videos and more at parnasmusic.com.

BMI Student Composer Awards Winners

Ryan Chase, William Rowe, and Benjamin Taylor were named winners in the 59th Annual BMI Student Composer Awards competition. Awards, including scholarship grants to be applied toward the students’ musical education, were given in May 2011 in New York City. Chase also was named the winner of the William Schuman Prize, which is awarded to the score judged “most outstanding” in the competition, for his Gold Rush for five violins.
Double Exposure

In what may be the first collaborative undertaking of its kind at an American university, the “Double Exposure” project premiered original works created by Indiana University film and music composition students at the IU Cinema on Feb. 19, 2012. Filmmaking and composition students worked together from the beginning, adjusting both picture and music to fit their shared vision as the film came together. Throughout the project, students were supported by IU faculty members, including Jacobs Associate Professor John Gibson. Doctoral student conductors Elliott Bark and Roger Kalia directed two ensembles of Jacobs musicians during the screening.

Watch the trailer at youtube.com/TheJSom.

After serving as assistant conductor for two seasons and general manager last year, Adam Bodony was hired as executive director of the New World Youth Orchestras, the three youth ensembles in residence at the Hilbert Circle Theatre, home of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.


Scott A. Jones was appointed assistant director of bands and associate director of athletic bands at the University of Georgia.

Roger Kalia was appointed music director of the newly formed Lake George Music Festival in upstate New York.

Peder MacLellan won the principal tuba position with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Bernard McDonald was appointed a faculty member and director of the opera program at Simpson College in July 2011.

Sarah Paradis accepted the position of assistant professor of low brass and music theory at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minn.

Linda Pearse accepted a full-time tenure-track professor of brass position at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada.

Samuel Gaskin won first place in the first Schoenstein Competition in Organ Accompaniment, at the Jacobs School in May 2011.

2011-2012 Kuttner Quartet

From left to right: Aaron Schwebel and Timothy Kantor, violin; Davin Lee, cello; and Jonathan Gertner, viola; were named members of the 2011 Kuttner Quartet. The ensemble, formed each year by competitive selection within the Jacobs School, has spent the 2011-12 season studying and performing several concerts in Bloomington and the surrounding region, under the direction of Jorja Fleezanis and Atar Arad.
Trombone Quartet Wins National Competition

The Indiana University Trombone Quartet was selected as the winner of the 2012 Eastern Trombone Workshop (ETW) National Trombone Quartet Competition, sponsored by The United States Army Band. The quartet, with members (left to right) Mike Miragliotta, Chao-Chun Cheng, Matt Crozier, and Eric Rogers, was featured in recital at the ETW in Fort Myer, Va., in March.

Maja Radovanlija was appointed guitar teaching specialist/lecturer at the School of Music at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Wolodymyr Smishkewych was appointed to the faculty of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick in Ireland as course director of the master’s program in ritual chant and song.

Andy Smith won the principal tuba position in the Lyric Opera of Chicago orchestra, beginning performances there during the 2012-13 season.

Musicologist Laura Stokes was appointed as the performing arts librarian at Brown University beginning in January 2012.

NSAL Winners

Jacobs students received numerous awards in the Bloomington Chapter of the 2012 National Society of Arts and Letters competitions held this spring at the school.

Voice Category

Katherine Weber, master’s student
Nathaniel Olson, master’s student
Ashley Stone, doctoral student
Elizabeth Toy, master’s student
Sandra Periord, bachelor’s student
Rainelle Krause, master’s student

Instrumental Category

Harpist Emily Levin, bachelor’s student
Pianist Ilya Friedberg, Performer Diploma student
Guitarist Rodrigo Almeida, Performer Diploma student
Harpist Anna McNulty, bachelor’s student
Pianist Hyun Ji You, master’s student
Pianist Haneul Lee, Performer Diploma student
Guitarist Erol B. Ozseven, doctoral student

Ballet Category

Elisabeth Martin, bachelor’s student
Jacob Taylor, bachelor’s student
Percussionist Nick Taylor was named the winner in the fourth annual Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s Modern Snare Drum Competition in June 2011.

Ericka Tyner Grodrian accepted the position of assistant professor of horn and music theory at Valparaiso University.

Adam Walton won first place and $1,500 in the Singers Club of Cleveland Competition for Male Singers in November 2011.

Fromm Music Foundation Commission Winner
Jeremy Podgursky, doctoral fellow and associate instructor in music composition, was awarded a 2011 Fromm Music Foundation Commission in the amount of $10,000. Podgursky’s accepted proposal is to write a piece for New York City’s Lost Dog New Music Ensemble, a quintet that has performed and premiered his music for several years. Lost Dog, the resident chamber ensemble of the Astoria Music Society, will receive funding from Fromm for expenses associated with the premiere and recording of the piece.

A Ph.D. candidate in the Jacobs School of Music, Leonard Tan hails from the tiny but influential country of Singapore and has a deep and abiding fascination with how cultural and pedagogical changes in the 21st century are molding the international field of music education. Enjoy a conversation with Tan as he talks about his upbringing, choice to study in Bloomington, musical explorations, and the questions he is asking as he prepares to return to his homeland.

See the video at youtube/6AoPAu96CFc.