Global Perspectives and the Jacobs School

9 Stops, 1 Incredible Journey! The theme behind this year’s opera and ballet season is one that inspires us to consider music with a global view as we anticipate a world premiere—Feb. 2014, by Jacobs faculty composer P. Q. Phan—based on the ancient Vietnamese folk tale Our Benevolent Buddha Thị Kính.

Currents of change and technological advancement that propel the Jacobs School of Music are undeniably taking us on an incredible journey, and they remind us more than ever that—to quote Professor Marietta Simpson from this magazine—“No matter where innovation takes us, excellence and relevance must serve as the foundation of every action we take.”

We celebrate the Choral Department’s recent reorganization around the idea that its role is to “push the boundaries of what choral music and conducting are and can be.” With four new faculty members, each an innovator with a unique approach to choral performance, the department is ready to offer students an unmatched opportunity to, as chair William Jon Gray says, “gain the diverse experience they need to become future leaders in the choral arts.”

The Jacobs School continues to expand its reach and connect to a wider audience through performances around the United States. This season included a showcase event at Carnegie Hall with the pre-college String Virtuosi, a partnership with Indianapolis Opera that took a production of Phillip Glass’s Akhnaten to Clowes Memorial Hall on the Butler University Campus in Indianapolis, and a performance of the Verdi Requiem at the recently built Palladium, in Carmel, Ind.

IUMusicLive! flourishes as our virtual gateway to the world, with webcasts in HD from the Musical Arts Center stage and a viewing portal with archives of performances that, from August 2012 to March 2013, received almost 60,000 hits from 110 countries and all 50 U.S. states. During the same time, close to 8,000 people watched live performances from the Jacobs School via the portal. (See p. 21.)

Two major events to look forward to this fall are the festivities surrounding the opening of the East Studio Building, Oct. 31, 2013 (coinciding with the annual IU alumni Cream & Crimson Weekend) and the inaugural recitals of Opus 91, Sept. 15-18, celebrating the recently installed organ in Alumni Hall. These projects represent Philanthropy at Work at its finest, and through them we are reminded of the many individuals and organizations whose investments make an important difference in the life of the school.

As we prepare to move into the new state-of-the-art building, which includes 84 faculty studios with high-definition video conferencing capabilities, and administrative offices, we welcome the news of the appointment of Espen Jensen as director of Admissions and Financial Aid.

We’re equally thrilled to welcome choral conductors Betsy Burleigh, Dominick DiOrio, and Steve Zegree; hornist Dale Cleverger; violinists Edward Gazouleas; violinsts Grigory Kalinovsky and Joseph Swensen; music educator Lauren Kapalka Richerme; music theorists Andrew Mead and Daphne Tan; and double bassist Kurt Muroki as they join their esteemed colleagues on the faculty.

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