

CSU's Unique Guitar Studio Approaches a Milestone

The Guitar Studio at Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music is led by Dr. Andrew Zohn. He started the annual Guitar Symposium when he came to CSU in 1999, and has created a strong program that has gained worldwide attention. The Guitar Symposium celebrates its 20th anniversary in February 2019.

The Studio offers extensive study in classical guitar performance with emphasis on both solo and ensemble repertoire. Guitar students at the graduate level may seek a Master of Music in Performance degree or an Artist Diploma (Graduate Certificate).

Master's students participate in multiple recitals throughout the course of each year. These include the flute and guitar, violin and guitar, voice and guitar, guitar studio, and guitar ensemble recitals. The degree program combines private study with graduate-level courses in music history, theory, and research. Students perform in guitar ensembles, chamber music, present one graduate recital, and a graduate research project or lecture recital, preparing them as performers and scholars.

There are currently eight graduate students in the Guitar Studio. They hail from overseas (China, Columbia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela) and the United States (Florida, Texas, and Kentucky), and have come together to create a diverse, dynamic cohort.



Fred Springer is a first year master's student (MM Performance) from Tallahassee, FL. Fred studied guitar at the University of Texas at Austin and has been playing classical guitar for approximately six years. He also serves as a Graduate Assistant and works doing stage management and assisting faculty. Fred agreed to share some of his thoughts and insight as a student in the Guitar Studio.

How did you decide to come to CSU to study guitar?

I was familiar with and admired the work of Dr. Zohn, and wanted the opportunity to study with him. I also knew from my research that CSU had a music program that offered a lot of performance opportunities. After a visit to Columbus during the

annual guitar symposium, the totality of these benefits helped me to make the decision to come to CSU. I'm very happy with my decision. I don't look back and think about other options I could have pursued.

What makes the Schwob School of Music and the Guitar Studio unique?

Schwob has a certain intimacy engendered by the size of the school. There is a true focus on faculty making themselves available to students for ongoing support and tutelage.

The Guitar Studio also benefits from these features, helping it feel like a small, tight-knit group. This sense is enhanced by having a lot of interactions among all the guitar students, from freshmen to second-year graduate students. One of the regular collaborations is the weekly master class led by Dr. Zohn. The class takes a practical approach, developing the art of performance, focusing on preparing students for real-world performing scenarios.

What kinds of opportunities for performance are there?

Dr. Zohn stresses the benefit of frequent public performances and the importance of having a reservoir of repertoire that we are comfortable performing. The performances affiliated with the University are not just limited to graduate students, and this is another example of the inclusivity that is part of the Guitar Studio's ethos.

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The performance venues available to CSU students are outstanding and include the RiverCenter's Legacy Hall and Studio Theatre, the Bo Bartlett Center, and chamber concerts at historical locations like the Ilges House. There are also university wide concert series the studio participates in, like the "Music Under the Dome" performances at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center's Planetarium.

What kinds of visiting scholar programs and events are there?

There are a number of ongoing events that enrich the experience of the guitar students. Last month, Matteo Mela and Lorenzo Micheli of the world-renowned SoloDuo visited CSU as part of their annual Artist in Residency position. For almost a week, they taught individual lessons, presented lectures on healthy musicianship and the history of guitar notation, performed a concert, and recorded in Legacy Hall.

Upcoming in February 2019 is the Guitar Studio's capstone event - the 20th annual CSU Guitar Symposium. This an annual event that brings together guitarists from around the world for educational and artistic stimulation, as well as a competition. This year's artists include Duo Melis, Paul Galbraith, and Elliot Frank.

Dr. Zohn's deep connections to the classical guitar world brings performers of the highest caliber to enrich and mentor the students. This kind of experience is extraordinary.

What do you think makes the Guitar Studio so successful?

I think the program is so successful because of the rich learning environment that Dr. Zohn has cultivated. Students have a unique opportunity to focus not only on their musicianship but also their personal development as artists. Students are mentored as they build a musical identity and discern how they can fit into the business of music. Dr. Zohn has also helped build connections to the community for the Guitar Studio and CSU as a whole.

What are your future plans after you graduate?

Fred says, "I hope to continue to develop and evolve as a musician, and look forward to a future being able to perform, publish, and teach."

History Student Defends Thesis

One of the most significant culminating experiences for graduate students in the doctoral program and in some masters programs is the defense of one's thesis or dissertation. I had the pleasure of attending one such thesis defense in the Department of History and Geography on November 16.



Jesse Chariton, a candidate for the M.A. in History, successfully defended his thesis entitled "*Addie Graves (1922-2007), Black Lutheranism, and the Creation of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Columbus, Georgia*". For those who have neither participated in nor attended a defense, it typically begins with a 15-30 minute presentation by the student and is followed by questions from the committee and then others in attendance. The thesis or dissertation committee of three or more faculty members then deliberates.

Jessie's scholarly presentation was both interesting and informative. As with most defenses, the question and answer period gave him an opportunity to present additional information, explain choices made in delving into and presenting the research, and satisfied the committee that the study was sound and worthy of publication. Jessie will be among this Fall's class of students graduating later in the week.

Pictured above (from left to right) are Dr. Bryan Banks, committee member, Jessie Chariton, and Dr. Gary Sprayberry, committee chair. Not pictured is Dr. Sarah Bowman, committee member, who participated in the thesis defense via Skype.

Congratulations to Jessie and to other master's and doctoral students who have undertaken the challenge of thesis or dissertation research and have successfully defended their work.

----Ellen Roberts, Director, The Graduate School

Education Department Takes Next Step in Walking Back Title IX

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos recently released a proposed rule with new guidelines for how colleges should handle sexual misconduct on campus. The rule will enter a 60-day comment period once it has been published in the Federal Register.

The rule departs from previous policy in several ways, analysts note. It reduces the scope of colleges' responsibility for investigating sexual misconduct by requiring colleges to investigate only incidents that occur within the school's own programs and only incidents that are reported to the designated campus official. These provisions could significantly reduce colleges' liability related to sexual misconduct, Andrew Kreighbaum reports for *Inside Higher Ed*.

The proposed rule would also require colleges to set their own standards of evidence for misconduct investigations and to allow cross-examination during proceedings, although it would not allow any interaction between the parties themselves. Finally, it would narrow the definition of sexual harassment to a precedent set by the Supreme Court that requires complaints of pervasive and egregious behavior.

Analysts say the rule could clarify colleges' responsibilities because, once finalized, it will have the force of law. Critics of the Obama administration's Dear Colleague letters argued that they were confusing and should have been gone through a public comment period.

Advocates for sexual misconduct survivors are criticizing the proposed rule for reducing colleges' responsibility to investigate off-campus incidents. Survivors' advocates also argued that the proposed rule runs counter to the Me Too movement and the national outcry against sexual misconduct.

But in documents released alongside the proposed rule, the **Department of Education** argued that geography should not be a factor in whether incidents fall within the scope of Title IX.

The proposed rule comes one year after DeVos announced that the Obama administration's 2011 Dear Colleague letter would be replaced. At a speech in September 2017, she proclaimed the end of the "rule by letter" and argued that previous policy had encouraged schools to diminish the due process rights of accused students (Kreighbaum, *Inside Higher Ed*, 11/16; Meckler/Anderson, *Washington Post*, 11/16).



EAB Daily Briefing, November 26, 2018 <https://tinyurl.com/ya74whd8>

What's Happening...

December 13—6:30pm
Graduate Hooding Ceremony
University Hall Auditorium

December 14—4:00pm
COEHP Graduation*

December 15—10:00am
COA & COB Graduation*

December 15—2:00pm
COLS Graduation*

***All graduation ceremonies will take place in the Lumpkin Center.**



Enjoy Your Winter Break!
We'll see you in January 2019

January 2—J-Term Classes Begin

January 22—Regular Spring Term
Classes Begin