

## TAMU Flute Day

On Saturday, February 9, Mariana Gariazzo organized a Flute Day attended by more than 25 flute students. Teachers, band directors, and parents traveled from various locations, including Pflugerville, Georgetown, Round Rock, Temple, Belton, Conroe, and the College Station-Bryan area to meet at Texas A&M. Room 126 of the new Liberal Arts: Arts and Humanities Building was packed for the opening concert and later, for the master class with our guest artist, Dr. Mary-Karen Clardy, Regent Professor of



Flute Studies at North Texas University. Along with the master class, TAMU offered a workshop on flute fundamentals, a flute choir

reading session, performances, exhibits of instruments, sheet music and other accessories, and a tour



of the new Arts and Humanities building. This event was sponsored by Yamaha Corporation of America, "The String and Horn Shop" in Bryan, and "Music and Arts" from Houston. Members of Mu Phi Epsilon, the Music Program Honor Society, played an active role in the event, from the registration of students to the documenting and arranging of the classrooms. Gariazzo hopes this program will become an annual event for the Department of Performance Studies.

Below is a link to a short video showcasing the highlights of the first TAMU Flute Day.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33tqB6saxkg>

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Pictured above, students in the Texas A&M College of Liberal Arts smile for a photo with TAMU President R. Bowen Loftin at the Grand Opening of the new Liberal Arts: Arts and Humanities Building. The Department of Performance Studies has studios, classrooms, and offices on the first and second floors of the new building, with the Undergraduate Office located on the second floor. Feel free to stop by for a visit, to experience the new performing arts facilities at Texas A&M!

# Undergraduate News

- ◇ **Megan Lalonde** has been accepted to The University of Alabama to pursue an MFA in scenic design.
- ◇ **Kara Poole** has accepted a 1 year, paid internship with Kalamazoo Civic Theatre.



**KAITLIN VICKERS and AMBER ZUNIGA** studied in Italy over the Spring 2013 semester.

The events and places these PERF students visited include the celebration of Carnevale in Fioano (top left), May Day in Castiglione (bottom left), where the citizens dressed in medieval attire to celebrate the holiday, Piccolo Teatro di Milano (top right) one of Italy's most important, progressive theaters, and (bottom right) the Roman theater in Volterra, an ancient Etruscan hill-town.





## EMPIRES FALL

### MARCH 1ST

PERF Graduate Student **Yunina Barbour-Payne** (pictured middle left) recently directed *Empires Fall*, a play by Robert Lawson with Marlin Fitzwater that focuses on the relationship between President George Bush and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev after the fall of the Berlin Wall and before the dissolution of the Soviet Union. President Bush and Barbara Bush were among the distinguished guests present at the staged reading.

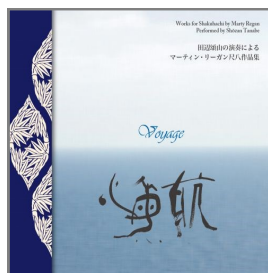


## FACULTY NEWS



**Professor Marty Regan's newest work**, a chamber opera entitled "The Memory Stone," was commissioned by the Houston Grand Opera as part of the HGCOco's Songs of Houston: East + West initiative and was premiered in April 2013 at the Asia Society Texas Center.

In January 2013, he released a compact disc entitled "Works for Shakuhachi by Marty Regan: Voyage, Performed by Shōzan Tanabe" and gave a CD release concert at Cascade Hall in Tokyo. For more information, please visit [martyregan.com](http://martyregan.com).



Professor Harry Berger is currently serving as the President of the Society for Ethnomusicology, an international organization dedicated to the study of all forms of music from diverse humanistic and social scientific perspectives.

## News from our ALUMNI

- ◇ **Veronica Stark** is Wardrobe Assistant for the Houston Ballet Academy.
- ◇ **Rachel Gilmour** is working as a Costume Technician in the costume shop at Sea World San Antonio, and is designing their newest show, Island Nights.
- ◇ **Erica Zuniga** is currently a substitute teacher and is applying for the Social and Cultural Foundations in Education graduate program at DePaul University.
- ◇ **Trevor Ritenour** and **Dale Googer** are both employed with StageLight.
- ◇ **Kara Ray, Andea Huang, Jamie Betik, Andrew Garcia, Andrew Roblyer, and Taher Lokhandwala** are all working actors in Houston.
- ◇ BA and MA alum **Evleen Nasir** is working on her PhD at Louisiana State University.
- ◇ **Bree Bridger** has an artistic directing internship with Black Lab Theatre. She will also be directing an upcoming new work with Mildred's Umbrella Theatre. Both theatres are in Houston.
- ◇ **Laura Mackan** is in Los Angeles and was a background player on four episodes of *The Bold and the Beautiful* the week of May 13th.

*What's new in*

## PERF?

**Guitar Studio**

2012 was a fantastic year for the Guitar Studio. Members of the Texas A&M studio were 1st prize winners of the 2012 Brownsville Guitar Ensemble Competition in the large ensemble category. In addition, the TAMU guitar studio presented concerts at the University of Texas, Pan American in Edinburg, TX and also at the Laredo Community College in Laredo, TX.

In the fall of 2012, Professor Isaac Bustos (pictured right) was the Artistic Director of the second biennial Texas A&M International Guitar Symposium and Competition. The event included performance by world-renowned artists such as Jorge Caballero and Flamenco guitar virtuoso Grisha Goryachev. In addition, the TAMU Symposium presented the Grammy-award winning Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. An international guitar competition was also held with young guitarists from all over the world including participants from Germany, Canada and Serbia. All festival artists presented lectures, masterclasses and residencies.


**HIGHLIGHTS OF ISAAC BUSTOS'  
PAST AND UPCOMING**
**PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:**

- Seminario e Concurso Internacional "Vital Medeiros" Sao Paulo, Brazil
- New York Classical Guitar Society.
- Encuentro Internacional de Guitarra, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.
- Columbus State University International Guitar Symposium.
- Hamilton International Guitar Festival, Hamilton, Canada.
- Toronto Classical Guitar Society International Guitar Series, Toronto, Canada.
- East Carolina Summer Guitar Workshop
- Austin Classical Guitar Society
- Philadelphia Guitar Society
- Sacramento Guitar Society

**MAROON STEEL**

The inaugural semester of the Texas A&M Steel Band, named "Maroon Steel," opened with a series of concerts in the Houston area, performing at San Jacinto College Central on April 6 and Lone Star College-North Harris on April 7. This was the first steel orchestra performance in Houston history, with 75 performers and 60 steel pans. Guest artists included steel pan virtuoso/composer Andy Narell, Grammy Award-winning drummer Mark Walker, and Trinidadian Calypsonian Relator. The two-hour program included classic calypsos from Lord Kitchener and compositions for steel band by Andy Narell.

"This was some of the most difficult literature I have ever witnessed in a steel band program," said Dr. Ian Rollins, director of Maroon Steel. "I was concerned about a brand new ensemble having the ability to meet the high demand from the music. The Aggies brought it! Andy Narell was floored when he heard them."

The steel pan is considered the most recent acoustic instrument innovation of the modern era. It originated in

Trinidad, when the United States Navy created the first American steel band.

"I think having a steel band at A&M just adds to the diversity that this university strives for all the time" said Allyson Cabezas, a senior Russian major minoring in music. "It brings a new style to our culture, and it gives students an opportunity to expand their horizons that they may not experience anywhere else. I loved that experience was not necessary. I didn't even know what a steel pan was before I joined the band. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to discover what this was all about. I just hope other students in the future are inspired to give it a shot."

Maroon Steel is a small ensemble course available in the fall and spring semesters. It is open to all university students. Contact Dr. Ian Rollins, Assistant Lecturer in Performance Studies, for more information at [irollins@tamu.edu](mailto:irollins@tamu.edu).



# Spring 2013 EVENTS

## PerfTech's Strong Electronic Music Performance Season

*Coming in 2014: Minor in Performance Technology*

**PerfTech**, an initiative in the TAMU Department of Performance Studies, recently concluded a season of concerts spotlighting live electronic music. The performance season began in January, where TAMU music students performed their own compositions that explored the impact of technology on creative expression. They used traditional instruments along with computer interfaces and 'spatialized' the sound live in three dimensions. The season concluded at the end of March, when students presented a concert of intermedia performance art, again performing their own compositions that explored the intersections of sound, visuals, performance, and technology.

"More than multimedia," says Jeff Morris, Instructional Assistant Professor, "intermedia is combination of multiple modes of expression so that they are intertwined: you can't remove one without the composition falling apart. Our students are using this approach to explore hybrid forms of expression."

The Department of Performance Studies will introduce a Minor in Performance Technology beginning in spring 2014. Building on the strengths of our faculty, courses, and co-curricular activities in Music and Theatre Arts, PerfTech gives students research experiences through interdisciplinary technology-based performances. This minor provides a structured program to support what have been ad hoc student degree plans, leading students through a unified introductory course, a variety of electives from our Music, Performance Studies, and Theatre Arts programs to suit their interests and needs, and a common experience in interdisciplinary collaboration to complete their portfolios.

For more information about minoring in PerfTech, visit [perf.tamu.edu/disciplines/minor-in-performance-technology/](http://perf.tamu.edu/disciplines/minor-in-performance-technology/).



## Glitch Lich

The new music group Glitch Lich performed in concert on February 5 in Rudder Theatre. Glitch Lich is made up of four musicians, Cole Ingraham, Chad McKinney, Curtis McKinney, and Benjamin O'Brien, however, only Ingraham appeared live at Texas A&M, while the other members played the concert both remotely and simultaneously from various locations across the country. This interesting method of performance is what sets Glitch Lich apart from other music groups.

"This is truly a twenty-first century ensemble," says Texas A&M Studio Director Jeff Morris. "The ensemble presents a networked performance by sending data to each other via the internet from multiple locations across the country, to shape the performance we will see. They perform by live coding: programming a computer live during the performance, instead of simply using a program they made in advance."

Glitch Lich is led by composer, performer, improviser, teach and programmer Cole Ingraham. Ingraham, who holds a Master of Fine Arts from Mills College in Oakland, Calif. (where he met the other members of the group) and a Bachelor's in Music from the University of the Pacific, conducted two residencies for Texas A&M music classes on Tuesday prior to the evening concert. "We are extremely excited to visit the university and be a part of this innovative artist series," Ingraham says.





# STUDENT NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Spring 2013 Events (continued)

*Produces Five Performances in 2013*

The fourth annual Texas A&M Student New Works Festival (SNWF), a student-run theatre festival, presented five original plays between Feb. 20 to Feb. 23 at the new Arts and Humanities Black Box Theatre. SNWF is the product of student collaboration and leadership. With Performance Studies faculty acting as advisors, SNWF gives Texas A&M theatre students the opportunity to step in as actors, designers, directors, playwrights, and producers.

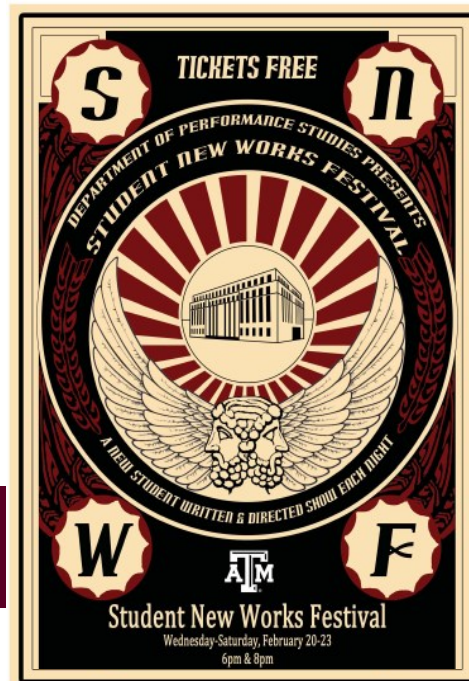
"It's exciting, it's messy, it's risky – all-in-all a great high-impact hands-on experience for students as they prepare to work as theatre professionals," says Instructional Assistant Professor Amy Guerin.

Production Stage Manager Madison O'Brien remarks, "I love the challenge that new works pose to all of the students involved in creating new art and experimenting and trying new things in an accepting environment. This environment not only allows everyone involved to learn from one another and the art they are creating, but invites the audience into this experiment as well."

This year's festival included two 45-minute one-act plays, a selection of 15-minute plays, and a non-traditional design-as-performance piece.

## THE FIVE WORKS IN THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WERE:

- *Henderson*, by Emily Sturrock; a darkly funny story about a small Texas town and how it defies expectations after a tragedy occurs
- *Slant*, by Citally Jimenez and Esmeralda Rodriguez; examines the similarities between humans and animals, relationships, and moving forward
- *The Persistence of Memory*, by Tori Dominguez; a design-as-performance look at grief and surrealism
- *What Are You Really?*, by Justin Fullerton; an over-the-top satire of racial attitudes in a supposedly post-racial America
- *When I Grow Up*, by Josh Hardcastle; follows a graduating senior as he attempts to cope with the pressures of life after high school



## ACTING IV SHOWCASE

On April 27th at StageCenter in Bryan, Texas, Acting IV students performed their end of the semester showcase. Over the course of the evening, nine actors performed monologues from an array of plays—from laugh out loud funny to rivetingly dramatic.

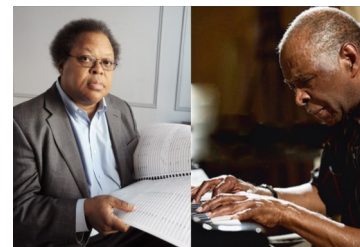
PERF and the Acting IV performers appreciated all attendees who came to support their fellow Aggies and join them in celebrating the end to a fantastic semester.

## VISITING MUSICIANS



During the 2012-13 school year, Texas A&M received visits from prominent musical groups and musicians, such as the Walden Chamber players and the SOLI Chamber Ensemble, who performed concerts and hosted residences for PERF. As part of the RAMPS (Rothrock Agenda for Music and Performance Studies) season, electronic and computer musician George Lewis, pianist and composer Muhal Richard Abrams, and Professor Kiri Miller were invited to speak about a variety of subjects.

One of the goals of the Department of Performance Studies is to provide a selection of speakers and performers each semester to encourage and inspire students to discover and develop their own creative callings.



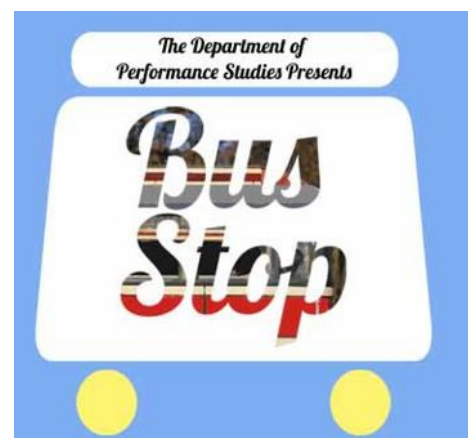
## The PERF Theatre Program Presents...

The Texas A&M Department of Performance Studies' Theatre Program presented the drama *Bus Stop*, by William Inge, eight times beginning on April 11 in Rudder Forum.

*Bus Stop* is the story of eight characters experiencing a late-night layover in a diner about 30 miles west of Kansas City in early March of 1955 due to a freak snowstorm. The story, a mixture of comedy and drama, is filled with sentimental characters and a slow-but-pleasant, slice-of-life storyline with some more willing to talk the night away than others. Department of Performance Studies faculty member Amy Guerin directed the production.

"This is a lovely jewel box of a play," Guerin says. "It's a play about its time—1950's America—and about our time, because the basic question I think the play is asking ("How do we love?") is not bound to one time or place. As I dove deeper into the play, I saw not just the love but the loneliness that is present in all the characters. Loneliness that drives them to, and from, each other, in ways that are both expected and contrary to how we understand relationships. *Bus Stop* is romantic, sad, and, most surprisingly to me, really funny. The playwright gives us real people with all their quirks—good and bad."

PERF intends to continue in the tradition of producing plays and other theatre productions using the gifts and skills of faculty and students in its department.



### Theatre Arts Program 2013-2014 Season Fall 2013

Second Stage Production: *Journey's End*, directed by Anne Quackenbush, 9/12-9/13 & 9/17-9/21.

Actor Lab: *Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief*, directed by Aaron Glover, 10/2-10/5.

Mainstage Production: *Tartuffe*, directed by Amy Guerin, 11/6-11/9 & 11/13-11/16.

### Spring 2014

Second Stage Production: *Educating Rita*, directed by Mike Greenwald, 2/12-2/15 & 2/19-2/22.

Mainstage Production: *Lysistrata*, directed by Anne Quackenbush, 4/2-4/5 & 4/9-4/12.

# WE HAVE MOVED!

We are very excited to announce that the Department of Performance Studies has moved from the Academic, Blocker, and Peterson buildings to the newly constructed Liberal Arts: Arts and Humanities building!

The Department of Performance Studies comprises practically all of the first and second floors. The English department occupies a majority of the third through fifth floors.



The Arts and Humanities building sits due west of the Administration Building and is currently open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The main office for the Department of Performance Studies is located on the second floor in Room 245.

We now have a photo tour available through the student ran performance studies blog, "The Green Room," (posts and photos by Theatre Arts Major, Bree Bridger) which can be found at <http://perf.tamu.edu/greenroom>.

## BLOGS: *STAY CONNECTED*

The Department of Performance has created several new blogs and social media accounts for the purpose of networking students who are interested in the performing arts and providing them with information about projects taking place at Texas A&M.

- Blogs (including the ones below) can be found by visiting <http://perf.tamu.edu/blogs/>
- The Mini-Ethnography Project (Emily McManus)
- The Green Room (Bree Bridger, with Italy updates by Kaitlin Vickers)



**LIBERAL ARTS**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

PERFORMANCE STUDIES

## THIS PUBLICATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE

## DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES

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Facebook groups: Texas A&M Department of Performance Studies and Texas A&M University Theatre Program Leadership Council.

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