



TRACK SHEET



Presented by S.P.IN. (Students Preparing for the Industry) Fall 2012, Vol. VI No. I

Commercial Music Program graduates five students

Four Commercial Music students will be graduating this December. They include: LaTisha Spence (performance emphasis; voice), Terra Strong (business emphasis; voice), Fredrick Weathersby (business emphasis; trumpet), and Marilyn Perry (technology emphasis; trumpet). Precious Bond (performance emphasis; voice) graduated this past August.

Commercial Music student wins Tiger Idol

For several months TSU has sponsored a music competition for students called Tiger Idol. Students with various music talents competed for the grand prize of \$10,000. This past September, Commercial Music student Austin Wilhoite, and his music partner Rizson Canady, won the contest! The duo performed a hip-hop medley with Wilhoite on alto sax, and Canady on the violin.

Summer ensemble racks up miles and performances

The summer Commercial Music ensemble had another season of travel and many performances. The 2012 group traveled through five states and accumulated over 1,400 miles. Their furthest trip was in August when they embarked on a five day tour in the Pittsburgh, PA area. They played at Idlewild theme park, as well as a private function. In September, they played on campus for the first area wide Kurdish Festival. Later that month they presented four shows at Holiday World theme park in Santa Claus, IN. The group included: Candida Sylvania (vocals), Brian Allen (bass guitar), Clint Richardson (guitar), Jameel Aziz (drums), Stefan Forbus (alto sax and vocals), and Dr. Mark Crawford (director and keys).

Commercial Music showcase includes other groups

For the first time during a Commercial Music ensemble showcase, the fall 2012 program included two outside groups. The first night of the showcase (Nov 19) included the Nashville State Community College Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Dr. David Edgington (bass guitar and NSCC Director of Music). Other group members include: Amber-Dawn Nicholas (violin), Jed Smith (drums), Ryan Moses (alto sax), and Cynthia Cardenas (guitar).

At the second night of the showcase (Nov 20), the TSU Orchestra (directed by Deidra Emerson), performed with Dr. Crawford's ensemble. This is the first collaboration between the groups.



TSU Centennial CD available for only \$10

**100 years of music performed by
past and present Tennessee State University music students**

Destine to be a collector's item!

Features current music students:

**Byron Harvey, LaTisha Spence, Daniel Hyberger, Elijah Holt,
Milton Mansfield, Hunter Davis, Dwane Weir, Adam Smith, Travis Settles**

Features former students and alumni:

**Prof. Charles Dungey, Prof. Ben Kirk, Brandon Boyd, Jonathan Blanchard,
Brandon Hooks, Charles Taylor, Xavier Rucker, Kevin Blanton,
Adrian Jakes, Leandria Lott, Kerry Frazier, Mushandi Pillow**

Music Row review posted by music writer Robert K. Oermman

Posted by Robert K. Oermann On February 8, 2012 @ 3:10 pm

COMMERCIAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE/Life Is Good

Writer: LaTisha Spence; Producers: Mark Crawford & Pat Holt; Publisher: none listed; TSU (track)
(www.tnstate.edu)

—Tennessee State University is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a CD that features a representative song from each of its 11 decades, all recorded by past and present music students and faculty members. Representing 2012 is a dreamy, jazzy outing by current Commercial Music student Spence backed by a band and chorus of her peers. You can hear everyone's gospel roots, but this performance holds its own with any jazz combo you'll hear in this city today. Representing the '60s, by the way, is a lively arrangement of The Temptations' "I Can't Get Next to You."

First Commercial Music alumni panel presented

For his September 11 seminar class, Dr. Crawford organized and moderated the first Commercial Music alumni panel. The panelists were asked to talk about their experiences while in school, as well as their experiences since graduating. Included on the panel were: Charles Taylor (2011), Michelle McBride (2010), and Laura Carter (2010).

Guest speakers

Guest speakers for the fall Commercial Music classes included: Dez Dickerson (former guitarist with Prince and the Revolution), the Flat River Band (local country/rock band), and Steve Grossman (author and professional musician). Representatives from NARAS (the Grammy organization) also came and spoke to the students.

Dr. Crawford completes Leadership Music training

This past May, Coordinator of Commercial Music, Dr. Mark Crawford, completed Leadership Music. Leadership Music is a non-profit educational organization that is designed to enhance communications and understanding between various aspects of the entertainment business. The organization explores how all elements of the industry operate individually and cooperatively, including record labels, artist management, studio recording, songwriting, music publishing, media, new technology, marketing and more. Participants must apply for the program and then are voted in by the Selection Committee. Participants make an extensive time commitment: attendance by the 45 to 50 class members is mandatory for the eight-month program, which begins in the fall. The first and last meetings are weekend retreats; between these retreats are six monthly meetings, which average 12 hours each. Now an alumnus of the program, Dr. Crawford is currently on a planning committee for this year's cohort.

Past Commercial Music Ensemble performances

Commercial Music Ensemble IV: Incredible Dave's (11/16/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Nashville Christian School (11/15/12)
Commercial Music Ensemble III: Drexel Academy (11/9/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Preston Taylor (11/8/12)
Commercial Music Ensemble IV performed with TSU Orchestra (11/5/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble and Ensemble VI: Honeysuckle Hill Farms (11/3/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Youth Encouragement Services (11/1/12)
Commercial Music Ensemble VI: NSCC Fallfest (10/31/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Honeysuckle Hill Farms (10/6/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Holiday World theme park (Santa Claus, IN; 9/22/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Kurdish Festival (9/8/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Transition to Independence Ceremony (8/22/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: private function (Stuebenville, WV; 8/12/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Idlewood Theme Park (8/10/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Incredible Dave's (8/7/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: AWC for student mixer (6/21/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: TSU National Alumni conference (6/15/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: Cool Springs Mall (5/19/12)
summer Commercial Music Ensemble: 34th Annual Bellevue Community Picnic (5/19/12)

Former student, Kimberly Love (2005), shares her life after leaving TSU

I had the great fortune to be a part of the Commercial Music Program at TSU. To this day, I miss it, and one day you will that some of the memories will stay with you forever.

In the middle of my studies at TSU I learned of a stomach disorder I have that greatly affected my singing voice. I had multiple surgeries to correct the issue. After my final surgery, I could not sing. I think I might have been in denial because I insisted on singing anyway. Finally, after embarrassing myself during a performance by hitting several sour notes (to this day I am not sure what kept me from running off stage, instead I finished the song), I decided to accept what I thought at that time was my fate. I dropped out of my studies from TSU's music program and started taking business courses. To my surprise, a couple months later, I was offered a job as a singer touring with a very well known group. It was an offer I couldn't pass up. During the first show I completely bombed in front of 1,000 people. It was so embarrassing I thought for sure I would be fired. Instead, the manager sent me to LA for additional rehearsal time, which proved to be the remedy. For the rest of the tour, I nailed every note, every beat and every dance move. I even shocked myself.

The winds of change blew me back home to the west coast where I found myself working as a receptionist. I hated my job. I was uninspired in every way. I was asked to plan a Christmas party. It was my way to escape from boredom and depression, so I did everything I could to make it successful. After proving I had a little bit of talent and creativity and hearing of my experience doing tiny parts in commercials in Tennessee, I was asked to be on the Board for Oscar Night America, Los Angeles 2008. This was an official, high profile party sanctioned by the Oscars. Who knew that working at a dingy little office in Crenshaw, California would lead to such an amazing opportunity? I poured every ounce of myself into that job and thankfully walked away with some very official documents showing my credit. From there I got an agent, and started doing back ground work in movies and television shows (move to LA and you will see how easy this is. They will take any one. The hours are long, but they feed you and you just might get to see Cuba Gooding, Jr., or any other number of stars actually working on set). I was able to land a teeny tiny background part on the show, Grey's Anatomy, as well as Private Practice.

The winds blew again, and now I find myself working and living in China as an English teacher. When I am not working, I am online looking for creative work. They don't have many foreigners here, so even though I have only been here three weeks, I already have a paid singing job lined up for next week.

My point in sharing my journey with you is to hopefully inspire you to follow whatever it is in your heart to do. I am a normal everyday person just like you. There is nothing much special about me. I come from where you come from. I have had some hard knocks, as well as some of you. I have also had some great luck, as well as some of you. After many years, I am still on my journey. The key for me has been to get up, apply for work, show up on time, and do my best. It seems simple – and it is – and it has been the key to 90% of the opportunities I have had.

In closing I want to leave you with two great pieces of advice I have been given in my life:

1) "80% of success is just showing up;" and 2) "Luck is when preparation meets opportunity". Good things WILL happen to you! Just keep going!

Kymberly Love (2005)

editor's note: Kymberly is currently in Japan teaching English. She has been over-seas for over a year!

Recent graduate, Precious Bond, shares advice

One day I was walking in the park and noticed a leaf that looked like a star. Then it came to me . . . some stars just fall from the sky, while others have to go through the process of being planted, rooted and given time to grow before their star qualities can be noticed. The best advice I can give you is this: Work diligently towards your dreams. Don't waste too much time trying to understand everything. The truth is we don't have enough time in our few years to both "know and act." If you are going to make a difference in this life, you need to trust God with what you don't know and take what you do know and do something with it.

Coordinator conducts tours at local cemeteries

This past October – just in time for Halloween – Dr. Mark Crawford, Coordinator of Commercial Music, organized cemetery tours that highlighted local African American musicians. Among the deceased performers were original Fisk Jubilee singers, songwriter Otis Blackwell, trumpeter Doc Cheatham, and the first African American star of the Grand Ole Opry, DeFord Bailey. Crawford called the tour, “The Stars at Rest Tour.”

The idea for the tour was inspired by his personal interest in taking various music related tours including museums, famous landmarks, and cemeteries. He knew that Nashville had enough famous deceased musicians to assemble a tour. Crawford hopes to expand the tour. He’s already identified other local deceased performers with interesting stories. Next October, reserve your seat for “The Stars At Rest Tour.”

Music related professional groups available for students

Fall 2012 saw the beginning of two music related professional groups, and the continuation of another.

Continuing its presence at TSU is **GrammyU** (www.grammy365.com/grammy-u). GrammyU was started to help prepare college students for their careers in the music industry through networking, educational programs and performance opportunities. GrammyU is designed to enhance students' current academic curriculum with access to recording industry professionals to give an "out of classroom" perspective on the recording industry. For more information, contact GrammyU at memservices@GRAMMY.com, or Dr. Crawford (MaCrawford@tnstate.edu). Students may join for \$25 a year, or \$50 that will cover their time while enrolled in college.

One of the two new groups is the **Nashville Songwriters Association International** (NSAI; www.NashvilleSongwriters.com). This group is for students who want to learn more about songwriting and/or network with various music publishers. Dues are \$50 a year. If interested, contact Dr. Crawford.

The second group new to TSU is the **Music and Entertainment Industry Student Association** (MEISA; www.meisa.org). MEISA is a national student organization that brings students together with leaders of the music and entertainment industry. Dues are \$25. Their goal is to more successfully and effectively prepare students for their future. Students will join a network of other students with similar interests and goals. MEISA membership can facilitate learning and networking between members, professionals, and potential mentors and employers. Contact the student president, Krystal Spencer, at TSUmeisa1@gmail.com.

Each of these three organizations can provide students with opportunities to learn and network. If you're serious about a career in the entertainment industry you owe it to yourself to look into these organizations. Any – or all – of these groups would look good on your resume!

Commercial Music hosts musicians on film

During February, the Commercial Music program will present a film series entitled *Musicians on Film: A Historical Examination of African American Performers*. Program Coordinator, Dr. Crawford, has selected four films that feature African American musicians and performers. Each Thursday in February a brief history and explanation of each film's significance will be presented, and the movie viewed. The films include *Wattstax* (1972), the *Legends of Rock & Roll* (1989), *RUN DMC Live* (2001), and *Solomon Burke: Live* (2007). Each session is free and will be presented in the Recital Hall.

The Commercial Music Ensembles welcome new members

Joshua Allen	Wash, D.C.	sax
Nate Browning	Nashville	guitar
Kristen Caudle	Detroit,	voice
Isaac Cockrill	Nashville	drums
Lamont Crawley	Nashville	drums
Jamal Dotson	Birmingham	alto sax
Michael Graves	Augusta	voice
Adriana Hughes	Michigan	voice
Arielle Kight	Memphis	voice
Danny Oliver	Atlanta	trombone
Steven Philips	Nashville	drums
Michael Riley	Port Arthur	bass guitar
Hannah VanderWymelenberg		voice
Camerson Walls	Nashville	voice
Michael Williams	Nashville	guitar

Congratulations to Nate Browning and Michael Williams who both had a 4.00 GPA at mid-term!

Alumni update

Daniel Hyberger (2012) recently concluded a five week tour. He is now playing with the Scott Holt Band.

Brandon Hooks (2011) has moved to Atlanta, GA

Charles Taylor (2011) was married September 1st to Danita Rucker.

Leandria Lott (2011) is teaching strings at Drexel Academy in Nashville, TN.

Maurice Farmer (2008) has been performing with the old-school group, the S.O.S Band.

Tamica Head-Harris (2003) is now teaching private voice at TSU.

Looking for money to fund your music related project? Check out these web-sites:

www.Kickstarter.com

www.IndieGoGo.com

www.eLance.com

www.PledgeMusic.com

www.Sellaband.com

Music Trivia:

November 19, 1966: The Supremes reach Number One with "You Keep Me Hanging On"

November 20, 1971: Isaac Hayes hits Number One with "Theme From Shaft"