

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

Department of Ethnomusicology

Winter 2008 Newsletter

Message from the Publications Office

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Friends,

Greetings from the Ethnomusicology Publications Office! Welcome to The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, Department of Ethnomusicology's Winter 2008 Newsletter. The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music is just one of the many exciting developments in our department this winter quarter. We have more new faces in the department, and our students, faculty, and staff have been participating in many exciting activities. We have some very special events coming up, so read on to find out what we've done and will be doing in the very near future.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, and for those of you outside of the department, we hope that you will keep in touch.

Ann Lucas
Publications Coordinator

Kathleen Hood
Publications Director

In This Issue

Department News

Pages 2-6

- James Newton Joins Ethnomusicology Faculty
- Aaron Bittel Becomes Ethnomusicology Archive Librarian
- Ethnomusicology and The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music
- Obituary: The Passing of Two Close Friends, Tsun Yuen Lui and Lilly Nketia
- The UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Ash Grove
- Bluegrass and Old-Time String Band Ensemble Returns to UCLA Ethnomusicology Department

Faculty and Staff News

Pages 7-8

Student News

Pages 8-9

Alumni News

Page 9

Upcoming Events

Page 10

- Seventh Annual Korean Music Symposium: Wed. Feb. 13, 2008
- Jazz Concerts: March 10 and 11
- Spring Festival of World Music 2008 Begins at the Hammer Museum, April 12th at 2pm
- Ash Grove 50th Anniversary Celebration

Department News

James Newton Joins Ethnomusicology Faculty

The Ethnomusicology Department welcomes **James Newton** (composer/flutist/conductor) as a new faculty member this winter quarter. James Newton is one of the world's true flute virtuosos in numerous musical idioms. His work encompasses chamber, symphonic, and electronic music genres, as well as numerous jazz and world music contexts. Newton has been the recipient of many awards, including the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Fellowships and the Montreux Grande Prix Du Disque. He has also been voted the top flutist for 23 consecutive years in Downbeat's International Critic's Poll.



James Newton

Described as a "musician's renaissance man," Newton has performed with many notable artists in the jazz and classical fields. Newton also served for five years as Musical Director/Conductor of the Luckman Jazz Orchestra and has held professorships at the University of California, Irvine; California Institute of the Arts; and California State University, Los Angeles. Many notable chamber ensembles, dance companies and symphony orchestras have performed his classical compositions worldwide. Newton's most recent commission was for an original Latin Mass, which received its world premiere at the Metastasio Festival, Chiesa San Francesco, in Prato, Italy, February 4, 2007.

Newton is teaching Cross Cultural Perspectives in Jazz (Ethnomu 121) during winter quarter 2008. He will teach Jazz Styles and Analysis: Jazz Since the Sixties (Ethnomu C122/C222), and the Electric Music of Miles Davis (Ethnomu 188/292) during spring quarter 2008.

Aaron Bittel Becomes UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive Librarian

The Ethnomusicology Department welcomes **Aaron Bittel** as the new Ethnomusicology Archive Librarian. Aaron was selected from a pool of highly qualified applicants and joined Maureen Russell, UCLA's other Ethnomusicology Archive Librarian, during the first week of January 2008. Aaron completed his MA in Ethnomusicology at UCLA in June 2006 and then attended Syracuse University's School of Library and Information Science, where he completed his MLIS in December 2007. In addition to his ethnomusicology and library science degrees, Aaron has a BM in Music Education with Performance Honors in Saxophone, summa cum laude, from Syracuse University. He has interned at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and the Belfer Audio Laboratory in Syracuse.



Aaron Bittel

Ethnomusicology and The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

At the beginning of 2008, the UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology joined the Departments of Music and Musicology to form The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. This school was named with a \$30 million endowment gift made possible by the generosity of the renowned performer, producer, and philanthropist Herb Alpert and his wife Lani Hall Alpert through The Herb Alpert Foundation. The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music facilitates a new cooperation between the Departments of Ethnomusicology, Music and Musicology, while also allowing the departments to remain autonomous and continue their unique academic and performance curriculums. Thus, The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music will supplement and augment the offerings of each department by providing a new curriculum and new resources geared toward educating students about music as a diverse global phenomenon while also providing more education on the practical aspects of making a music career beyond the university.

In the spirit of this mission, The School will be devoted to the performance and study of diverse genres of music, including world music, popular music, jazz, and classical music. Through The School, UCLA students will have the opportunity to supplement their academic studies in ethnomusicology, music, and musicology with courses dealing with making a career in music, including courses on topics such as the music business and music in the public sector. The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music provides a strong compliment to the Department of Ethnomusicology's current curriculum by emphasizing equality among different genres of music throughout the world while also offering more opportunities for the Ethnomusicology Department to interact with its sister departments and offer more courses of practical utility to students.

Dr. Timothy Rice, former Chair of the Department of Ethnomusicology and Associate Dean of Research and Academic Affairs in the School of the Arts and Architecture, has been appointed Director of The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. At an information session about the new School, Dr. Rice stressed that The Herb Alpert Foundation's \$30 million endowment gift was a "student-centric" gift. In addition to funding a new curriculum and new majors and minors, funds from The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music will also be used to purchase new educational technology to enhance student learning, and to fund scholarships for students, including scholarships to pursue educational and performance opportunities beyond the classroom. Funding for the school will also be used to sponsor interdisciplinary and interdepartmental performances and educational events. Some of the first events being sponsored by The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music reflect its focus on interdisciplinary and interdepartmental cooperation. During spring quarter of this year, The School will sponsor a performance of *The Three Penny Opera*. This performance will feature musicians from both the Departments of Ethnomusicology and Music and will be accompanied by a lecture series conducted by faculty from the Department of Musicology.

In discussing why The Herb Alpert Foundation wanted to endow a new school of music Herb Alpert said, "The landscape of music has changed so dramatically in the last few years and the ways of making, delivering and sharing music have become so diverse, there needs to be a new approach to music education." In describing why the foundation chose UCLA to realize this new approach to music education, Herb Alpert explained that, "I was looking for a school that would respond to the global environment we are in now . . . and UCLA has some real visionaries on staff who have some far-reaching, really beautiful ideas of how to pull it all together."

Obituary: The Loss of Two Friends, Tsun Yuen Lui and Lilly Nketia

In addition to new faces in the department this quarter, the Ethnomusicology Department sadly must report the passing of two people close the history and legacy of ethnomusicology at UCLA.

Tsun Yuen Lui, who taught performance and lecture courses in Chinese music from the 1960s to the 1980s in the old Department of Music, died on January 8, 2007. His funeral took place on January 17, 2008 in Whittier, California.

Lilly Nketia, the wife of J. H. Kwabena Nketia, died January 12, 2008, after a brief illness. Kwabena Nketia was a professor of ethnomusicology and African music in the old Department of Music from the late 1960s to the early 1980s.

The UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Ash Grove

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, Department of Ethnomusicology and Ash Grove Music are coming together in spring 2008 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Ash Grove Night Club. From the opening of its doors in 1958 until a fire destroyed it in 1973, the Ash Grove acted as a center for musicians from different backgrounds to come together, play, and learn from each other. Often regarded as the historical center for folk music in Los Angeles, the Ash Grove was also a guiding force for popular music in the United States, hosting musicians from diverse musical backgrounds, including Muddy Waters, Bob Dylan, Doc Watson, and Lightnin' Hopkins. Even after it burned down, the spirit of the Ash Grove lived on through a series of concert and theater productions, followed by a second Ash Grove Restaurant and Night Club established in Santa Monica, and a San Pedro concert series that ended in 2000. UCLA's celebration of the Ash Grove's legacy and spirit will occur April 18-20 and feature an array of concerts and workshops by performers who began their careers at the Ash Grove Night Club and other performers who reflect the Ash Grove legacy.

Two UCLA Live evening concerts at Royce Hall serve as the heart of the festival commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Ash Grove's inception. The concerts on Friday April 18th and Saturday April 19th feature performers such as Dave Alvin, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Laura Love, Taj Mahal, The Bernie Pearl Blues Band and Barbara Dane, Dwight Trible, and a host of other musicians. During the day, The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, Department of Ethnomusicology will host numerous workshops and conversations involving a variety of musicians, spoken-word artists, and political activists associated with the Ash Grove. The celebration will conclude on Sunday April 20th, with two free concerts in Schoenberg Hall.

The first concert will feature gospel choirs, including The Eddie Kendricks Gospel Choir, Bernice Reagon and the Freedom Singers, Dwight Trible, Michelle Shocked, and others. The finale concert will feature Taj Mahal, Barbara Dane and Pablo Menendez, Sheila Nichols, Cris Williamson, Vicki Randle, Suzie Williams, Ken Edwards, Mandy Steckelberg, Paul Krassner, Roy Zimmerman, and other artists to be announced.

Tickets for the Royce Hall concerts are available at <http://www.uclalive.org/>. All events held in Schoenberg Hall are free and open to the public. A full program listing of all events, their participants, and locations is available at http://www.ashgrovemusic.com/Pages/UCLA_event.htm

Bluegrass and Old-Time String Band Ensemble Returns to the UCLA Ethnomusicology Department By Thomas Stanton

The Department of Ethnomusicology's Bluegrass and Old-Time String Band Ensemble is a small group of undergraduate and graduate students who gather weekly to play bluegrass and old-time music. The instrumentation of the ensemble is banjo, fiddle, dobro (resonator slide guitar), mandolin, guitar, and upright bass. Thomas Stanton reestablished the ensemble this year with the sponsorship and support of Professor Anthony Seeger, who also participates. The last time this type of ensemble was active in the department was in 2000-2001, when it was led by Amy Wooley. The ensemble performs traditional American music pieces, such as fiddle tunes and folk music originating from Appalachia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is also heavily influenced by bluegrass artists of the last half-century, such as Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, Tony Rice, and Chris Thile. Mike Seeger, the Ethnomusicology Department's Regents' Lecturer for 2007-2008, will give master classes and play with the group when he is at UCLA in April.

The group has eight student participants: Jeremy Althouse (guitar/dobro), Julius Reder Carlson (mandolin), Anna Egholm Pedersen (fiddle), Jennie Gubner (fiddle), Kris Heller (guitar), Jake Kaye (guitar), Julie Raimondi (bass), and Thomas Stanton (banjo). Everyone chips in on vocals. Anna, Kris, Jake, and Thomas are undergraduates in the department. Anna is a foreign exchange student from the University of Copenhagen, and excited to be at UCLA to study ethnomusicology since it is not taught anywhere in Denmark. Julius, Jennie, and Julie are graduate students in the department, and Jeremy is a graduate student in the Physics Department.

What makes the ensemble exciting is that each of its members is an accomplished musician in one tradition or another, but many have never played this particular music before. Jeremy comes from a classical background, although he is no stranger to bluegrass and flamenco.



Bluegrass and Old-Time String Band Ensemble: Standing (left to right): Jeremy Althouse, Thomas Stanton, Julie Raimondi, Jake Kaye, and Kris Heller. Sitting (left to right) Anna Egholm Pedersen and Jennie Gubner. Not pictured: Julius Reder Carlson and Professor Anthony Seeger

Julius spent years in Argentina learning and performing the chacarera and tango on the guitar. Anna comes from the Scandinavian and Celtic fiddle traditions, while Jennie lived in Argentina playing tango on her violin and in Italy playing entirely different music. Kris comes from a rock background, with a focus on technique, cross picking, and scales; Jake has been playing guitar for a few years, with an interest in the music of the 1960s folk revival. Julie has played the string bass in a variety of contexts and Professor Seeger learned a different style of banjo, but has fun picking and listening with the group.

The group is led by Thomas, an accomplished bluegrass musician who won 1st prize at the 2004 Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest. He arranges most of the music and directs the instrumentation, but the ensemble is also driven by the contributions, arrangements, and musical skills of other students.

The Bluegrass and Old-Time String Band Ensemble already has the following schedule of on-campus performances where you can hear them:

February 14th: Ethnomusicology 20A, Jan Popper Auditorium (SMB 1200), 2:00 PM
February 14th: Opening for "Will Magid and Friends," Fowler Museum (UCLA), 6:00 PM
May 29th: Ethnomusicology Spring Festival of World Music and Jazz, Schoenberg Hall Auditorium (SMB 1100), 7 PM

Faculty and Staff News

Prof. Beken Gives Lectures and Performs; Compositions Performed

Ethnomusicology Professor **Münir Beken** spent the end of last year lecturing, performing, and being performed. Last fall, several of Professor Beken's compositions were performed in Istanbul and Izmir, Turkey. Additionally, his music was also used for Seyh Galib's Beauty and Love in collaboration with producers Walter Andrews, Ozgen Felek, and choreographer Carolina Pahde Mallarino, as part of the MESA annual conference at the Palais des Congres des Montreal in Montreal, Canada. For more information, see <http://www.mesa.arizona.edu/annual/performance.htm#Beauty>.

On October 25, 2007, Professor Beken gave a lecture entitled "Stone Records and Parallel Universes: Music and Globalization in Turkey" at UCLA's Center for European and Eurasia Studies. In November, he also participated in a conference on the Music of Diaspora Cultures at Universität für Musik und darstellende Kuns Wien in Vienna, Austria. He delivered a paper and performed a concert on 'ud, which included Professor Jihad Racy's Segah Samai.

Evin Ilyasoglu also dedicated a chapter to Professor Beken in his book on Turkish composers published in September of 2007. For more information, see <http://www.pankitap.com/kitaplar/71turkbestecisi.html#>.

Prof. DjeDje Gives Lectures in China

From December 1-7, 2007, Professor **Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje** visited Beijing, China, at the invitation of the Chinese Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China. During her stay, she gave two lectures: one on West African fiddling and another on African American gospel music.

Prof. Hendelman Performs in Europe, Visits Alma Mater

Jazz faculty member **Tamir Hendelman** participated in a European fall tour with the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, performing in concert halls from Vienna to Spain. As the holidays approached, Tamir brought his trio to Rochester and conducted a jazz composition clinic at his alma mater, Eastman School of Music, reconnecting with his own teachers from his student days. After participating in a concert to benefit the California Jazz Foundation (an organization that assists jazz artists in need), Tamir flew to Russia just before the holidays to perform at the International House of Music with the Roberta Gambarini Quartet. The concert also featured the Russian Philharmonic and was a commemoration of the new hall's fifth anniversary.

Prof. Rees Gives Lectures, Participates in Conference in China

Professor **Helen Rees** spent Christmas in Shanghai, where she gave two invited lectures for the Department of Musicology at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and also participated in the First Conference of the Musics of East Asia Study Group of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM).

Prof. Seeger at ICTM, Charm and IASA; Visiting China and Brazil

Professor **Anthony Seeger** attended the World Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) in Vienna, Austria, in July 2007. He was awarded an honorary membership in the ICTM at the meeting of the general membership for his service as Secretary General of the organization from 1999-2004. After that he and his wife spent several very agreeable days with Ankica Petrovic and her husband at their lovely house on Hvar, an island off the coast of Croatia.

In September, Professor Seeger delivered the Peter Le Huray Lecture keynote on "The impact of the recording industry on the study of music: from wax cylinders to YouTube" at the annual conference of the Royal Musicological Society and the Center for the History and Analysis of Recorded Music (Charm), Royal Holloway in the UK. He traveled on to the annual meeting of the International Association of Sound and Audio Visual Archives (IASA) in Riga, Latvia, where he chaired the annual meeting of the IASA Research Archive Section (of which he is Chair) and also chaired a paper session. He flew on from there to Beijing, where he spent a week delivering five lectures at universities and conservatories in Beijing. He was a discussant for the first half of the papers at the SEM Pre-Conference on Cognitive Ethnomusicology on October 24, 2007. He attended the defense of a PhD dissertation of which he was the principal advisor at the University of Buenos Aires on November 27, 2007, and delivered a paper entitled "Um Conto de Tres Arquivos" (in Portuguese) at the symposium "Memoria das Culturas" at the University of Sao Paulo, in Sao Paulo Brazil.

Student News

Student Activities, Awards, and Accomplishments

The Brent Canter Trio, featuring jazz studies students **Mark Banner** (drums), **Eli Sundelson** (Hammond B-3), and **Brent Canter** (guitar), released its debut CD "Soundscape" in November. They celebrated their release with a performance and party at Los Angeles' greatest jazz venue, The Jazz Bakery, on Sunday, November 4, 2007.

Ethnomusicology graduate student **Ben Harbert** presented a paper at the Society for Ethnomusicology National Conference in Columbus, Ohio, entitled "Until Our Ears All Bleed: Poetics of the Grotesque in International Extreme Metal." His documentary about prison music, *In a Day's Time: Songs from the California Men's Colony*, was also shown at the Northwest Film Center's Reel Music Film Festival in Portland, Oregon.

Ethnomusicology graduate student **Megan Rancier** was awarded a Title VIII Research Scholar Fellowship from the American Councils for International Education, for five months of dissertation research in Almaty, Kazakhstan, starting in January 2008. She is

focusing on issues of music and post-Soviet national identities, and on how current nationality policies are "playing out" musically in this multi-ethnic urban center. She will also be contributing an article to the Spring 2009 *Popular Music and Society* special issue, "Popular Music in the Post-Soviet Space: Trends, Movements, and Social Contexts." Her article will address historical nostalgia in contemporary Kazakh pop music videos.

Current undergraduate **Aurelia Shrenker** and alumnus **Eva Primack** had several engagements in Los Angeles to kick off 2008, performing the musical sounds of Appalachia, Georgia, and the Balkans. After performing as the trio SIRENE with Moira Smiley at Tangier on January 8th, Aurelia and Eva debuted as a duo in three shows at the Museum of Jurassic Technology on January 11th and January 18th.

Jazz Studies undergraduate **Adam Shumate** received the Julian "Cannonball" Adderley Memorial Scholarship for 2007-2008. This scholarship was created in 1976 to honor the memory of the late internationally renowned jazz musician, Julian "Cannonball" Adderley. It represents an effort on the part of UCLA and the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies to foster greater appreciation for the African-American musical heritage.

Jazz Studies student **Zack Smith** played with his jazz band PIANORAG on Friday, November 23, 2007, at The Mint, where they opened for legendary percussionist Poncho Sanchez.

Alumni News

The Jack Quartet debuted String Quartet No. 1, composed by UCLA Ethnomusicology graduate **Cristian Amigo** (Ph.D. 2003), in New York at The Tank on November 17, 2007. The College of Staten Island (CUNY) Foundation commissioned the work, which Cristian completed in New York City on December 19, 2006.

Jazz Studies alumni and bassist **Noah Garabedian** performed with SUEZENNE FORDHAM CHAMBER JAZZ LA in the Steinway Hall Series on Thursday, November 29, 2007. This performance featured an ensemble of Tibetan instruments performing along side Suezenne Fordham on piano and gu zheng, Noah on contrabass, and Darren Ross on percussion.

Jazz Studies trombonist **Isaac Smith** led the Issac Smith Big Band in a performance at The Jazz Bakery on November 19, 2007.

Jazz Studies graduate **Kamasi Washington** played at Los Angeles's World Stage with his band Nov. 30 and 31, 2007.

UCLA Ethnomusicology and Vocal Performance alumnus **Kalil Wilson** won the annual New York Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition regional finals in Los Angeles on October 30, 2007. This month he will sing on stage at the Met in the competition's semifinals.

Upcoming Events

Seventh Annual Korean Music Symposium: Wed. February 13, 2008

Events include a seminar from 12:00-5:00 pm in the Gamelan Room, and a concert at 7:00 pm in Popper Theater. Free admission.

Winter Jazz Concerts: March 10 and 11, 2008

Join us for the **Jazz Showcase Concert** on March 10, featuring the UCLA Jazz Combos directed by Kenny Burrell, George Bohanon, Clayton Cameron, Charles Owens, Michele Weir, and Charley Harrison. Come back the next night for the **Big Band Jazz Concert**, honoring **Gerald Wilson**, who is retiring this quarter. The UCLA Jazz Orchestra, directed by Charley Harrison; the UCLA Latin Jazz Ensemble, directed by Bobby Rodriguez; and the UCLA Contemporary Jazz Ensemble, directed by Kenny Burrell and Roberto Miranda, will play Wilson's compositions. Additional UCLA Jazz faculty featured on the program will include James Newton, Barbara Morrison, George Bohanon, Clayton Cameron, Charles Owens, Michele Weir, and Tamir Hendelman, with guest artists Anthony Wilson and Ernie Andrews also appearing. Bubba Jackson and Tommy Hawkins from radio station KKJZ will co-host the event.

Both concerts will begin at 7:00 pm in Schoenberg Hall. Free admission.

Spring Festival of World Music 2008 Begins at the Hammer Museum, April 12th at 2 pm

Come to the Hammer Museum to kick off the Department of Ethnomusicology's Spring Festival of World Music and hear the **Music of Brazil** Ensemble, directed by Kirk Brundage. Free Admission

Ash Grove 50th Anniversary Celebration, April 18-20, 2008

Come to concerts and workshops Friday, April 18 through Sunday, April 20 that celebrate and reflect on the legacy of the Ash Grove.

*For further details about these and other upcoming events, please see
<http://www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu/newsevents/upevents.htm>

Newsletter Editor: Ann Lucas

Ann Lucas, Publications Coordinator
Kathleen Hood, Publications Director

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music
Department of Ethnomusicology
2539 Schoenberg Music Building, Box 951657
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1657

telephone: 310-825-5947
email: ethnopus@arts.ucla.edu
website: <http://www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu>