A

fter more than a decade of planning, fundraising and community support, the University of Central Oklahoma is now an All-Steinway School. In August, UCO officially joined an exclusive network of more than 150 schools worldwide with the prestigious designation, which means that a minimum of 90% of the pianos in the UCO School of Music were manufactured by Steinway & Sons. These instruments are award-winning, hand-crafted masterpieces that generations of students will rely upon to help them reach their highest artistic potential.

"Achieving the coveted designation of an 'All-Steinway School' positions us among the top arts programs in Oklahoma," said Steven Hansen, M.F.A., dean of the UCO College of Fine Arts and Design. "Internally, we have long recognized that the quality of our faculty, students and programs are perpetually exemplary. This designation allows the external validation for the quality of our School of Music to more closely match our internal assessment."

By using professional-quality Steinway pianos in our performance spaces, teaching studios and practice rooms, the UCO School of Music equips its students with the best possible tools to prepare for a career in the music industry.

The "All-Steinway School" designation reflects UCO’s commitment to excellence at every level of our students’ educational experiences.

“Our students, faculty and guest artists are now practicing, learning and performing on the finest pianos in the world,” said Brian Lamb, D.M.A., director of the School of Music. “Out of the 56 pianos in the School of Music, 52 are now Steinway brands with more than half of those being purchased within the last five years.”

Since UCO purchased its first Steinway grand piano in 1999, the staunch dedication of leadership, donors and faculty championing our cause has continued to attract new supporters. This incredible momentum culminated in the purchase of 12 Steinway pianos within the last 2 years, at last earning UCO the title of "All-Steinway School."

“Learning the history of our School of Music,” Lamb added.

With a lifespan of 60-100 years, each Steinway piano will have a lasting legacy at UCO. The School of Music will continue to benefit from the use of these beautiful instruments for decades to come.

“I want to thank our partners at Edmond Music as well as all of our amazing donors and the School of Music faculty for supporting this initiative,” said Lamb.

“Achieving this goal required dedicated and selfless teamwork. Faculty donated time, funds and performances. Donors proved their dedication to UCO through selfless giving and timely ideas. The Development team coordinated these efforts, provided focused guidance and mapped our road to success. The success of this effort required multiple components, participants and the innate generosity that is one of the hallmarks of Oklahomans," Hansen added.

This past summer, Edmond Music delivered the final Steinway & Sons pianos to the UCO School of Music.
Melton Gallery Presents Symposium on Race, Gender and Identity

This fall, the UCO Melton Gallery invites you to experience the all-new symposium series “Reshaping Conventions: Race, Gender and Identity Explored Through Black Representation.” Featuring works by nationally-exhibited artists Patrick Earl Hammie and Le’Andra LeSeur, this social justice-focused symposium will present artist talks, workshops, book discussions, panels and a juried student response competition engaging the topic of race in America.

The first exhibition, “Imperfect Exchange,” will showcase the artwork of figurative painter Patrick Earl Hammie. His work challenges the conventions of Western art to explore the ways in which primarily male artists have imagined the body. Hammie’s work will be displayed in the Melton Gallery Sept. 9-Oct. 10. From Oct. 24-Nov. 21, visitors can experience the work of Art Prize-winning artist Le’Andra LeSeur in “brown, carmine, and blue.” A new media, installation and performance artist, LeSeur is concerned with the spectacle that has ensued as a reaction to black joy and trauma.

“Thanks to the combined generosity of faculty, friends and Literati Press, "Reshaping Conventions" will also include a juried student competition offering scholarship awards for winners in seven categories. All UCO students are invited to respond to the exhibitions in written (poetry, prose or essay) or visual form (2D, 3D, film and performance). The symposium will end with a ceremony honoring competition winners at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 21 in the UCO Melton Gallery. For more information about sponsoring a student prize, please contact Madalyn McHale at mmchale@uco.edu or (405) 974-3778. "Reshaping Conventions" is supported, in part, by the Oklahoma Arts Council, which receives support from the State of Oklahoma and the National Endowment for the Arts. These exhibits contain mature content. Viewer discretion is advised. For questions about the CFAD Artistic Expression Policy, email expression@uco.edu."

School of Music Concert Honors New President

Each year, the School of Music features “UCO’s Musical Best” during the President’s Concert, a free and open-to-the-public event honoring the President of the University of Central Oklahoma. This year, the concert took place on Sept. 12, and our talented musicians had the opportunity to welcome and honor new President Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar with performances from each of the School of Music’s divisions and centers.

Save on tickets for your favorite UCO Productions!

Receive up to $5 off each ticket, up to 4 tickets per performance, for select shows at Mitchell Hall Theatre, the UCO Jazz Lab, ACM@UCO and the CHKICentral Boathouse. This year, proceeds will support CFAD student scholarships.

Now available for only $20. To purchase your Central Arts Card, visit centralartscard.uco.edu or contact the Mitchell Hall Box Office at (405) 974-3375.
CFAD Students Visit South Korea and U.K. With Donor Support

Thanks to the generosity of donors who participated in the Seoul Connection fundraiser in February, the Kaleidoscope Dance Company was able to visit Seoul, South Korea in May for a transformative 10-day trip. Students and faculty from the Department of Dance attended classes at Kookmin University, SeoulTanz Dance Studio, 1Million Dance Studio and Tune Dance Company. They also visited Suwon University where they held a performance exchange with Suwon faculty, and UCO faculty member Tina Kambour taught a class for UCO and Suwon students. The group set aside some time for sightseeing as well, visiting Gyeongbokgung Palace and many other historical and cultural sites.

“The most beautiful thing was not speaking the same language but still communicating through the art of dance,” reflected dance student Nathaniel Tylor. “I’m so thankful and have so much gratitude towards everyone who made this trip possible.”

In August, theatre arts students led by department chair Kato Buss, Ph.D. had the opportunity to travel abroad as well. Students were invited to perform in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the world’s largest performing arts festival. The study tour commenced in London with a viewing of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at Shakespeare’s Globe and visits to the National Gallery and the British Museum. After a short trip by train to Edinburgh, Scotland, students performed an original play, “The Gravel Road Show presents Oklahoma USA!,” a world-premiere cabaret featuring clowns, dance, music and theatre.

Noteworthy Events:

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CFAD Leadership:

Each year, the University of Central Oklahoma selects one exceptional alumnus from each college whose outstanding accomplishments are deserving of recognition and honors them with the Distinguished Alumni Awards. We are proud to announce this year’s CFAD recipient, Shannon Price ’91. Price graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in graphic design, a minor in advertising and a K-12 teaching certificate from Central. Today, she is making a difference in our community as the executive director for the Fine Arts Institute in Edmond, Oklahoma. Congratulations, Shannon!

CFAD Departments:

A national panel of judges at the 2019 Oklahoma College Public Relations Awards considered more than 500 entries from 50 universities and institutions. From this competitive pool of submissions, CFAD was presented with six awards spanning a variety of categories—including first prize for our quarterly newsletter, “ARTSpeak!”

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Michael Andreaus graduated from UCO in 2018 with a B.M. in Musical Theatre and is already making a name for himself in New York City. Andreaus appeared in Ava DuVernay’s “When They See Us,” which premiered on Netflix in May and garnered 16 Emmy nominations. Andreaus noted how proud he was to be a part of such a ground-breaking work and gave credit to UCO for providing the opportunity that connected him with his manager.

“I went back to school later on in life after being in the workforce for 15 years,” said Andreaus. “I knew there was more I wanted to do as far as my singing and acting career. I had been doing community theatre but there were still gaps in my knowledge. I wanted to be ready to audition and perform at my highest level and UCO definitely provided all of that. They gave me the skills that I needed to succeed in this business. I wouldn’t be where I am without them.” To follow Michael Andreaus, visit www.MichaelAndreaus.com or @Michael_Andreaus on Instagram.

Upcoming Events

• Grease is the word! Fall back in love with Sandy, Danny and all of Rydell High in UCO Musical Theatre’s production of “Grease.” Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-5, and 2 p.m. Sept. 29 and Oct. 6 in Mitchell Hall Theatre. Tickets are sure to sell quickly, so reserve your seat at www.mitchellhalltheatre.com or by calling (405) 974-3375.

• Now in its seventh year, UCO Musical Theatre will present “Macabaret: A Spooktacular Halloween Revue,” a fun-filled evening featuring Halloween-themed twists on popular songs. Showtimes are 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Oct. 24-26 at the UCO Jazz Lab. For tickets, please call (405) 974-2100.

• UCO Theatre Arts offers a playful exploration of the classic tale of Peter Pan in “Peter and the Star Catcher” at 7:30 p.m. Oct 31–Nov. 2 and 2 p.m. Nov. 3 in Mitchell Hall Theatre. Tickets are available now at www.mitchellhalltheatre.com or by calling (405) 974-3375.

• Legendary recording artist Marilyn Maye shares her unparalleled vocal stylings with UCO Broadway Tonight, performing her greatest hits at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1 at the CHK|Central Boathouse. For tickets, visit broadwaytonight.ucol.edu or call (405) 974-3375. UCO Broadway Tonight is supported, in part, by the Oklahoma Arts Council, which receives support from the State of Oklahoma and the National Endowment for the Arts.

• Mark your calendars! The UCO Kaleidoscope Dance Company will perform their fall concert at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21-23 in Mitchell Hall Theatre. Please visit www.mitchellhalltheatre.com or call (405) 974-3375 to secure your tickets today.

The College of Fine Arts and Design recognizes our outstanding corporate supporters. Thank you for your investment in the arts at UCO!