

# *Vivace Quartet*

The Vivace Quartet is comprised of members of the piano faculty at Dixie State University: Nancy Allred, Christopher Giles, and Brandon Lee. Recently, Christian Bohnenstengel, piano professor at Southern Utah University, joined them in exciting performances in St. George and Cedar City.

These remarkable pianists love making music and enjoy collaborating together in beautiful and thrilling two-piano, eight-hand music including "Waltz from *Faust*," by Gounod, "Danse Macabre," by Saint-Saens, and the "Carmen Fantasy," by Bizet, arranged by Mack Wilberg.

Nancy Allred and Brandon Lee are planning the next concert of "8-hand piano music," in conjunction with the student piano ensemble performance during spring 2015.

The university audience is looking forward to this next performance of four amazing faculty pianists creating music together with talented students on the same stage!

**Dr. Nancy Allred** is Associate Professor of Piano at Dixie State University. As the director of piano studies at DSU, she has spent several years developing Dixie's outstanding piano program. She loves working with university students and mentors a fabulous studio of piano majors at Dixie. A gifted teacher, she loves the classroom as well as the private studio. Dr. Allred has developed courses in piano pedagogy, literature, ensemble, accompanying, group piano and private piano. She also teaches music theory and ear training!

An accomplished soloist and chamber musician, Dr. Allred loves to collaborate with her esteemed colleagues and other gifted performers from Southern Utah and throughout the state. She is the newly appointed director of the Southern Utah Heritage Choir, with whom she recently toured to Ireland. She has also traveled with the choir to England, Scotland, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, the Midwest, and China.

Dr. Allred is an extraordinary musician and pianist. She holds advanced degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, studying piano with Paul Pollei, Robert Smith, and renowned professor Joanne Baker. Recently, she performed Grieg's Concerto in A Minor with the Dixie State Symphony Orchestra and Chopin's Concerto No. 1 with the Southwest Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Allred looks forward to many wonderful years of creating beautiful music with the fantastic students at Dixie State! She is the mother of four children.

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**Christopher Giles** has been playing the piano since the age of two and performing before audiences since the age of six. A gifted artist and teacher, he has taught for over 35 years privately and at colleges and universities. As a Southern Californian, he began formal piano lessons with his grandfather, Professor Thomas E. Giles, who was the first music dean at the University of Utah. After the death of Professor Giles, Christopher entered the University of Southern California (USC) Preparatory School of Music under scholarship and was the youngest pianist (nine years old) to give a USC-sponsored recital at Founders Hall.

After four years at USC, Mr. Giles joined the studio of Dr. Robert Turner of Santa Monica, California. During the next nine years, Christopher Giles performed numerous recitals and with several Southern California orchestras including a debut performance with the Los Angeles

Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. He also performed at the Beethoven Bicentennial Celebration at the Los Angeles Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. During those formative years, Mr. Giles entered the prestigious Santa Barbara Music Academy of the West where he received the concerto prize, performing under the baton of Maurice Abravanel. Mr. Giles was also the youngest entrant to be given this opportunity.

As a contest winner, Mr. Giles received the Gold Medal at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and numerous other First Place and finalist awards across the United States. Christopher Giles's love of chamber music began at the age of sixteen when he first collaborated with a piano trio in preparation for the Coleman Chamber Music National Competition. His trio not only received the finalist prize but also the Tushinsky Memorial Scholarship. He has been involved with chamber music ever since and enjoys it today as well as collaborative recitals with instrumental and vocal soloists.

Christopher Giles received his collegiate training at Brigham Young University, Indiana University (Bloomington) and University of Texas at Austin under merit scholarships. His teachers were Reid Nibley, Gyorgy Sebok and William Race respectively. As a lover of piano concertos, Mr. Giles has played over thirty performances with orchestra, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Long Beach Symphony and the Utah Symphony. In addition to numerous performances across the United States, Mr. Giles has been a recitalist for international audiences in Europe, Canada and South America. Currently, Christopher serves on the piano faculty at Dixie State University. He has three wonderful children and eight grandchildren.

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American Pianist **Brandon Lee** has been thrilling audiences with his technical command and tonal sensitivity in performances for well over two decades. He has been awarded first place in more than 40 piano competitions nationwide, including the Second New York Piano Competition under the auspices of the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the Music Teachers National Association, the Grand Junction Young Artist Concerto Competition, and the Four Corners Piano Competition.

Mr. Lee has had training in private lessons and masterclass settings with some of the world's foremost pianists including Leon Fleisher, Stephen Hough, Kevin Kenner, Olga Kern, Norman Krieger, Jerome Lowenthal, Robert MacDonald, Charles Rosen, Andre-Michel Schub, Abbey Simon, and Ralph Votapek. In chamber music settings, he has had the privilege of working with the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, Pacifica Quartet, and Fry Street Quartet. In addition, he has worked very closely with Craig Jessop in rehearsal and performances, including Bach's St. Matthew's Passion, and recitals in Washington D. C. and Arizona.

Brandon has been a guest soloist with the Utah Symphony Orchestra, San Juan Symphony Orchestra, Gold Country Chamber Orchestra, Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, and the Utah State Symphony Orchestra. His collaborative work encompasses a wide range of styles and setups, including piano duo, jazz trio and quartet, piano quintet, blues trio, as well as substantial work as an accompanist for voice and instrumental performances. He was a founding member and keyboardist of a rock band, provided synth and keyboards with the band Kansas, performed progressive hip-hop music with Christylez Bacon from Washington, D. C., accompanied Audra MacDonald in performance, and regularly performs cocktail style piano music.

Mr. Lee is a graduate of Utah State University, where his principal teacher was Gary Amano. Other teachers include Dennis Hirst, Marian Kerr, and Linda Nakagawa. He completed a Masters of Music degree with a Piano Performance and Pedagogy emphasis, as well as a Bachelors of Music degree with emphasis in Piano Performance, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He is a member of the music faculty at Dixie State University. He loves working with music students and enjoys assisting in the growth of the DSU piano program, as well as making artistic contributions to the extended community of Southern Utah.

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**Dr. Christian Bohnenstengel** feels equally at home in a wide range of musical genres. He was recently featured as soloist in Mozart's Concerto in E-flat Major for Two Pianos, as pianist in a chamber production of Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* and as organist in a performance of John Rutter's *Gloria*. His avid interest in jazz music has led to continuing collaborations with Jazz saxophone player Tom Herb. Praised as "...a master of contrasts..." (Aalener Nachrichten) and for his ability to "...put the audience into a state of sheer awe..." (Gmunder Tagespost), Dr. Bohnenstengel has concertized on three continents, including recitals with flutists John Bailey and Javier Montilla in Venezuela and various solo and chamber music performances at the annual Sommernachtsmusik in Moegglingen, Germany.

Dr. Bohnenstengel received his Bachelor of Arts degree, summa cum laude, in piano performance from Missouri Western State University. He received Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His teachers included Jerry Anderson and Mark Clinton, piano, and Quentin Faulkner, harpsichord and organ. He received UNL Hixson-Lied travel grants to study and perform at the Ameropa Chamber Music Festival in Prague and to study with Christoph Lieske at the Internationale Sommerakademie Mozarteum in Salzburg. He also studied in master class settings with Rita Sloan, Blanca Uribe, Ann Schein, and Murray Perahia, among others. Dr. Bohnenstengel is currently teaching at Southern Utah University. He previously taught at UNL and Doane College.

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