

Internationally acclaimed artists to headline Arts Alive Concert Series

Ball State University's Arts Alive Concert Series enters its fifth year by welcoming a dynamic line up of nationally and internationally acclaimed artists to Sursa Performance Hall.

The concert series begins Oct. 14 with a performance from the highly acclaimed Moscow Piano Trio. Recognized as one of the most prominent Russian chamber music ensembles, the trio's repertoire of music encompasses more than 200 works, many by modern composers.

On Nov. 13, soprano Angela Brown will grace the Sursa stage with an operatic and classical vocal performance. Critics have hailed Brown as "the future of opera." In early 2009, Brown will sing "Aida" at Deutsche Oper Berlin and will follow that with performances of Leonora in "Il Trovatore" for The Atlanta Opera.

The series' final artist, Russian cellist Natalia Gutman, will come to campus April 7 to perform in Sursa Hall. Gutman has performed tours throughout Europe, the United States and Japan and is frequently invited to solo with some of the world's best orchestras. The New York Times has described this talented musician as "hailing from Russian string-playing aristocracy."

In addition to the concerts, the artists each will provide a master class for students at Ball State's School of Music, sharing their expertise, experiences and insight, said Robert A. Kvam, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

Kvam said performers featured in the Arts Alive Series typically appear only in large metropolitan areas. The acoustics and architectural splendor of Sursa Hall are key factors in drawing artists to the university. Past Arts Alive performers have included violinist Midori, Empire Brass, Chanticleer and pianist Kristian Zimerman.

"Sursa Hall has undoubtedly helped us in our quest to attract premier talent who enjoy performing in a serene and sensitive place," he said.

All concerts in the Arts Alive Concert series are scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$80 for the entire series and \$35 for individual concerts. For more information, call Ball State's box office at 765-285-5581.

Employers may have cut 160,000 jobs last summer when forced to pay more

Thousands of Americans have lost their jobs in recent months due to the nation's struggling economy, but a new Ball State University study found that increasing the minimum wage last summer may have eliminated an additional 160,000 low-paying positions.

Mike Hicks, director of Ball State's Bureau of Business Research, said there was a slight increase in the nation's unemployment rate in the weeks after July 1, when more than half the country implemented a new federally mandated minimum wage.

"Nationwide, we estimate roughly 160,000 workers did not have jobs available as a consequence of the minimum wage increase," he said. "This includes both jobs lost and those not created. This is important to note because the labor force grew in July, but new jobs did not expand at the same rate as the supply of workers."

The minimum wage is a tool to increase workers' incomes, but the cost of using this tool is a small loss of employment options for low wage workers. The study reinforces the dominant findings that the responsiveness of employment to a minimum wage increase is small, Hicks said.

"It is clear to me that efforts to mitigate poverty among the working poor could be accomplished at a smaller cost to the economy through the extension of earned income tax credits, or a rebate of employee contributions to payroll taxes, such as Social Security and Medicare, or an alternative income tax, such as a monthly tax rebate," he said.

While not all data have been finalized, it is safe to conclude these job losses are likely clustered in rural areas and among young workers, who represent the bulk of minimum wage employees, Hicks said.

He points out that few workers are paid the minimum wage, with less than 1.5 percent of workers over the age of 25 earning minimum wage. Most of these positions are in the food service industry, where tips comprise a significant part of income.

"The minimum wage law was never designed to boost employment," Hicks said. "Rather, an unstated goal may be to induce low wage workers to remain out of the labor market with the hope that they acquire additional skills which boost their earnings."

The findings are consistent with the standard set in 1981 by the Minimum Wage Study Commission, which found that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage usually results in a 0.19 percent increase in unemployment, said Hicks, who also teaches economics in Ball State's Miller College of Business. The study may be found at www.bsu.edu/bbr.

The Fair Labor Standards Act mandated an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$6.55 an hour in July. The legislation also mandates an increase to \$7.25 for the summer of 2009.

The 2008 minimum wage legislation affected 26 states. The remaining 24 states have minimum wages already above the July 2008 federal level.

Of the 26 states, eight had state level minimum wages that were above the July 2007 federal minimum wage. For these states, the new minimum wage rose between 5 cents and 40 cents per hour. Eighteen remaining states saw a July increase of 70 cents per hour, or an almost 12 percent increase.

International work with 'leftover places' yields \$10,000 cash, no strings attached

Usually when advertisers promise \$10,000 no strings attached, it's one of those work-at-home scams that is too good to be true.

For Wes Janz, Ball State University associate professor of architecture and humanitarian design finalist for the inaugural Curry Stone Design Prize, that is exactly what he won. The announcement, which was made at the IdeaFestival in Louisville, Ky. on Sept. 25, caught Janz by complete surprise.

"That someone finds enlightenment in my work is the most amazing of inspirations for me," he said. "I am honored to be in the company of the other four finalists - their work is important and beautiful, all in ways that are specific to the issues each has chosen to address, and in ways that are important to so many difficult lives being lived around the world."

Modeling itself on the Macarthur Fellows Program, the Curry Stone Design prize is a yearly international award that recognizes exceptional humanitarian design based on the merit of the ideas and the potential of bringing them to fruition. The prize purposely defines design in the broadest possible sense and invites new definitions that defy tradition and break boundaries. The winner received \$100,000, while Janz and the other finalists received \$10,000.

Janz's long-term dedication to his work caught the attention of Curry Stone officials. Over the years, he has visited squatter settlements in several countries, including the United States, India, Panama, Turkey, India, Sri Lanka and Argentina. His research with forgotten people, places and materials has allowed him to take students to visit people around the globe who erect entire communities from scrap materials.

His focus on this overlooked population has earned him accolades from his contemporaries. A colleague at the University of Minnesota hails Janz as a leader of a movement addressing "the needs of the billions of ill-housed people around the globe."

Those interested in learning more about Janz's research can visit the One Small Project Web site or make plans to purchase a copy of his forthcoming book "One Small Project," which is tentatively slated to be published in 2010.

Students cheer for the Indianapolis Colts

Four Ball State University students are entering fall semester balancing their studies with the demands of NFL cheerleaders.

Sophomore Breanna Fonner, junior Lauren Greene, senior Larissa Stanfield and senior Jessica Melendez are balancing their schoolwork with traveling to Indianapolis for practices, games and appearances at community events throughout Indiana as cheerleaders for the Indianapolis Colts.

"I'm still trying to grasp how to manage it down to the hour," said Greene, a junior marketing major.

In addition to classes, the students drive to Indianapolis for three-hour practices, twice each week. On game days, they are required to be at Lucas Oil Stadium six hours prior to kickoff. Each cheerleader is also required to make a minimum of 15 appearances in the community. Colts cheerleaders appear at festivals, high school football games, business events and various other functions throughout Indiana.

"Being in the public eye, you have to be careful of the way you carry yourself," said Fonner, a sophomore human resource management major. "I love being a role model for others; it is who I am."

In balancing class with studying, student organizations, practices, games and appearances, there is not much time for a social life, the students say.

"The only drawback is that there is no point where I can just relax," Greene said. "But regardless, I've had the time of my life, and it is definitely worth it."

Ball State's Electronic Field Trip celebrates 100 years of 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game'

Ball State's award-winning Electronic Field Trip (EFT) program will partner with the National Baseball Hall of Fame to showcase the 100th anniversary of the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

Students in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to participate in "Baseball's Greatest Hit: 100 Years of Musical History," a live 60-minute interactive broadcast at 10 a.m. and noon Oct. 21 from Brooklyn's KeySpan Park.

"This innovative use of interactive technology will allow viewers to celebrate one of baseball's most storied traditions and deepen their learning experience of its history without ever leaving the classroom," said Ball State President Jo Ann M. Gora. "Making history and culture more accessible through our leadership in emerging media is just one more way that we are redefining education."

Students from P.S. 24, the Spuyten Duyvil School in the Bronx, will be on hand as presenters and Andy Strasberg and Tim Wiles, authors of the book "Baseball's Greatest Hit: The Story of Take Me Out To The Ball Game," will also be participants of the show.

"The Electronic Field Trip program allows us to connect the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum to millions of students in one day," said Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson. "As an educational museum, we are charged with telling the story of baseball and how it is embedded in American culture. The EFT allows us to share this story with a huge audience while at the same time celebrating one of the most well-known songs in the world."

The broadcast, which is funded by the AT&T Foundation, will be distributed to nearly 7 million students in 41 states across the country, making KeySpan Park the largest classroom in the world. Students can e-mail or call in questions during the broadcast.

One interesting fact the students will learn is that "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," written by Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer, is synonymous with a baseball game's seventh-inning stretch, but the song was actually written to be performed on home pianos and the vaudeville stage.

Educators can sign up to receive the free broadcast, which offers standards-based curriculum in language arts, music, history and technology, by visiting www.bsu.edu/eft.

In addition to the broadcast, the EFT experience also offers additional content students can participate in before the virtual trip, including:

- short video packages, called webisodes, that can be viewed online at the EFT Web site or through the iTunes music store
- a series of age-appropriate classroom activities, developed by teachers who have been immersed in the EFT content
- a Web site filled with interactive games and activities

Many local PBS stations will air the broadcast live, but classrooms can also access the broadcast as well as archived shows on Ball State's EFT Web site, www.bsu.edu/eft, and on Apple's Learning Interchange Web site, <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/>.

ON CAMPUS

Bus trip to SOFA Exposition in Chicago

Art lovers will once again have the opportunity to attend the International Exposition of Sculptural Objects and Functional Art (SOFA) at Navy Pier in Chicago Nov. 8. The Ball State University Museum of Art, F.B. Fogg and the Indiana Women of Achievement Awards Committee are offering another bsu tour to this year's event.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the SOFA Exposition in Chicago. Art galleries from around the world bring together outstanding sculptures, amazing art glass and beautiful jewelry from internationally renowned artists for the exposition. There are lectures given by artists, professionals and collectors. Admittance to all presentations is included in the entry fee. F.B. Fogg will be the tour guide for the trip, enriching the experience with its artistic perspective.

The tour also includes breakfast on the trip to Chicago, lunch at the Riva Restaurant on Navy Pier, brownies by Sue Kaiser on the return trip, along with the SOFA admission price and roundtrip coach transportation. The cost is \$150 per person.

The bus will leave from the Ball State Alumni Center at 7 a.m. Nov. 8. Visit www.bsu.edu/artmuseum/bustours for further information on the exposition, including the reservation form. Please RSVP by Oct. 17.

India in Indiana Family Day offers exhibit of Indian miniature paintings

The Ball State University Museum of Art will bring a little piece of India to families in the Muncie community with the India in Indiana Family Day.

The day will include hands-on activities, youth-oriented tours and story time in the galleries. The purpose of the event is to expose children and their families to Indian culture, while showing them that the museum can be a fun place to visit.

The Indian Miniature Paintings from the David T. Owsley Collection exhibit will be on display Oct. 10 through Jan. 4. The paintings were created using colors from natural sources, including minerals, gold, silver, vegetables, and oftentimes precious stones. In addition to vivid paintings with themes from several schools and eras, the display includes bronzes and daggers from the museum's collection.

India in Indiana Family Day is presented in partnership with the South Asian Muncie Association and generously supported by the Muncie Art Students' League.

The event will be 2 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Ball State Museum of Art. Admission to the event is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Tania Said or call 765-285-5242.

The museum is free to the public and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.bsu.edu/artmuseum or call 765-285-5242.

IN THE NEWS

Denise Amschler, professor of health science

Amschler was quoted in a Sept. 23 article by Teacher Magazine, "Getting Sleepy." According to a Ball State study, co-authored by Amschler, teachers may not be getting enough sleep at night to be fully effective in the classroom. Forty-three percent of teachers surveyed said they slept an average of six hours or less per night. Half of the teachers admitted to missing work or making errors due to a "serious lack of sleep" and nearly one-fourth said their teaching skills are "significantly diminished" due to lack of sleep. The study is considered "preliminary and descriptive," Amschler said. The study was also featured in publications from National Sleep Foundation, Sleep — Global Information Center, Targeted News Service and others.

Ball State University

The San Diego Union-Tribune featured Ball State in a Sept. 10 article, "Indiana Seeks 10,000 More College Graduates a Year." The article said a new strategic plan for state-supported colleges and universities was presented by the Commission on Higher Education. The plan calls on colleges and universities to turn out 10,000 or more students with degrees each year, about a 33-percent increase. The article said Ball State supports the plan. The story was distributed by the Associated Press to 91 media outlets.

Mike Bloxham, director of Insight and Research of Center for Media Design

Bloxham was mentioned by Attracting Markets.com in a Sept. 17 article, "More than 50 Customers, Partners and Industry Experts Slated to Speak at ExactTarget's Connections '08 User Conference." Bloxham will be a keynote speaker at the conference. Speakers will conduct discussions and share insight in 24 special sessions to equip marketers with the knowledge to implement and optimize one-to-one marketing campaigns.

President Jo Ann M. Gora

Gora was quoted by The Chronicle for Higher Education in a Sept. 29 article, "Sticker Shock, The \$375-Billion Question: Why Does College Cost So Much?" The article says four years of tuition and fees for a bachelor's degree at Ball State run about \$30,000. That's "less than a good car," Gora said. It "prepares you for the rest of your lifetime." Even with that, about 80 percent of Ball State's students receive financial aid, Gora said.

Bob Gustafson, professor of journalism

The Indianapolis Business Journal quoted Gustafson in a Sept. 15 article, "Airport Hoping to Double Ad Revenue." The Indianapolis International Airport officials hope to double advertising revenue, pushing it past \$1 million, when the new midfield terminal opens in November. The airport relies on non-airline revenue, such as food sales and advertising, for about 60 percent of its revenue. New digital signs give airport officials the option to place five advertisements in a location where only one appeared before. "It's

less clutter to the eye in some ways, but the new technology allows them to get more messages in a compact area, and that really drives revenue up," Gustafson said. "It also allows advertisers to really diversify their messages and be more timely."

Scott Trappe, director of Human Performance Laboratory

U.S. News and World Report quoted Trappe in a Sept. 24 article, "Boomers Should Add Muscle Before It's Too Late." Strength training can help build muscle mass to assist in the fight against the effects of old age until they reach 80, Trappe said. Sponsored by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, the study found that while six men in their 80s did get somewhat stronger, their whole muscle size and fiber size did not grow during the 12-week training regime. "We know there is accelerated muscle loss as we get older," Trappe said. "The best way to keep our muscles from shrinking is through resistance training, which allows our body to maintain muscle size and strength as we go through our 60s and 70s." The story was also published by the Washington Post and distributed by Health Day News to 51 media and information Web sites.

Brandon Waite, professor of political science

Waite was quoted in a Sept. 20 article by the Anderson Herald-Bulletin, "Crisis: Economy Shifts Campaign Focus." Waite said if anything good comes out of the recent financial crisis on Wall Street, it could be a change in the way the presidential election is covered by national media outlets. "It has sort of refocused the media's attention back," Waite said. "We've spent the last week talking about pigs and lipstick." The media is shifting away from "trivial" campaign rumors to the real issues affecting Americans and candidates will do the same. As the market stumbles, candidates will need to use the recent downturn to their advantage, he said.

Warren Watson, instructor of journalism and director of J-Ideas

Watson wrote a Sept. 24 guest column in the Indianapolis Star, "Political Fact Checking," in which he examines the truthfulness of over-funded political candidates. "Just how truthful are words of our candidates? The First Amendment protects noble speech, truthful speech, even stupid speech. Unfortunately, it also protects speech that is untruthful," Watson said.

SPOTLIGHT

Recognition

Cecil Bohanon, Department of Economics, participated in a conference call with faculty from Indiana University, Notre Dame University and Purdue University designed to advise Indiana's congressional delegation about the proposed federal bailout plan. Bohanon spoke Sept. 26 with Indiana Congressmen Dan Burton, Steve Buyer, Baron Hill, Mike Pence and Mark Souder.

Presentations

Paul Gestwicki, Department of Computer Science, "A Case Study Approach for Teaching Design Patterns through Computer Game Programming: Tutorial Presentation," Consortium of Computing Sciences in Colleges, Midwest Conference, Holland, Mich., Sept. 26-27, 2008.

Publications

Benjamin Dean, Paul Gestwicki and **Fu-Shing Sun**, Department of Computer Science, "Teaching Game Design and Game Programming through Interdisciplinary Courses," Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges, Vol. 24, No. 1, 110-115, 2008.

Amanda Hurford and **Maren Read**, University Libraries, "Bringing the Voices of Communities Together: The Middletown Digital Oral History Project," Indiana Libraries, Vol. 27, No. 2, 26-29, 2008.

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