



*... dedicated to the
promotion, composition,
performance, understanding
and dissemination of
new and contemporary
music ...*

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SCI Student Chapter at the University of Florida

By Adam Scott Neal

Each year we present two SCI student concerts as well as two concerts in the long-running UnBalanced Connection electroacoustic series. This year we really kicked it up a notch and presented over 12 events.

We are very fortunate to have a tight-knit department of energetic young composers. Our faculty also trusts the students to perform a substantial role in planning the department's activities. I hope this report serves both as a document of what our chapter has accomplished this year, as well as a note of encouragement to other chapters across the nation. If we can do all of this, so can you!

Many of our students are members of both our SCI chapter and the Sonic Computing Organization which sponsors electroacoustic events at UF. It is only natural that we combine efforts and funding. Through the UF Student Government the two organizations in our composition department are able to fund guest artist visits, post-concert receptions,

conference travel, our student CD series, and various equipment needs.

We hosted several guest artists this year. In September, Diagenesis Duo (Heather Barnes, soprano and Jennifer Bewerse, cello) visited, conducting a wonderfully instructive masterclass where they read through three student compositions. They also performed a recital of their current repertoire, which included a premiere by one of our alumni, Sarah Hersh.

In October we hosted David Gompper (composer-pianist) and Wolfgang David (violinist). During their visit Professor Gompper lectured about his compositions and the duo performed a recital of their repertoire.

Dorothy Hindman visited for a guest lecture on her work in February and Lei Liang visited as the featured guest for

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About the Newsletter

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How to Submit Items to the Newsletter

Articles: The Newsletter welcomes submissions of articles to run in future issues. Articles, if accepted, may be edited for length and content. Please include a photo with all submissions if possible (photo may be of author).

Member News + Photos: Please send all member news and activities with a photo. Submitted items may be edited.

Ideas/Suggestions: The Editors welcome any other ideas or suggestions.

Submit to the newsletter via email at: newsletter@societyofcomposers.org



Upcoming SCI Events

**2013 Region I Conference
August 15–17, 2013**

Portsmouth, NH

Hosted by PARMA Recordings as part of the PARMA Music Festival

**2013 Region IV Conference
October 17–19, 2013**

Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, KY

Host: Thomas Couvillon

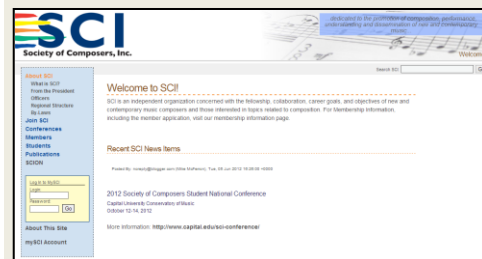
Thomas.Couvillon@eku.edu

**2014 Region VIII Conference
March 7–8, 2014**

University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

**2014 Region V Conference
March 27–29, 2014**

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo
Hosts: Christopher Biggs and Lisa Coons



Internet & Email

www.societyofcomposers.org

- Conference dates and submission guidelines
- Contact information and links to member web-pages
- Student chapters and opportunities
- CDs and journals produced by SCI
- Details on SCI such as membership, contacts for officers, regional structure, by-laws, newsletter archives and more...

SCION

SCION is a listing of opportunities on our website exclusively for members. It is updated on a continual basis so that it may be checked at any time for the most current notices. In addition, members are emailed on the first Monday of each month to remind them to visit the site for new or recent postings. The large number of listings is easily managed by a table of contents with links to the individual notices. In-depth coverage; contest listings in full; all items listed until expiration; this is a valuable resource that you may print in its entirety or in part at any time.

John Bilotta, SCION Editor
scion@societyofcomposers.org

scimembers

scimembers is a member-driven e-mail mailing list that is intended to facilitate communication between members of the Society on topics of concern to composers of contemporary concert music. It conveys whatever notices or messages are sent by its members, including announcements of performances and professional opportunities, as well as discussions on a wide variety of topics. For more information, including how to join and participate in the listserv:

<http://www.societyofcomposers.org/publications/listserv.html>

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University of Montana

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Membership Information

For complete details, please visit
<http://www.societyofcomposers.org/join/membership.html>.

Full Membership (\$55/year): Eligible to submit scores to the National Conferences, regional conferences, SCI Recording Series, SCI Journal of Music Scores. Access to the SCI Newsletter in electronic form. Optional subscription to [scimembers], the SCI listserv and all other SCI publications. Eligible to vote on Society Matters and in elections for the National Council.

Joint Membership (\$75/year): Same benefits as full members

Senior Membership (\$27.50/year): Open to those 65 years of age or older, or retired. Same benefits as full members.

Associate Membership (\$27.50/year): Open to performers and other interested professionals. Receives the SCI Newsletter in electronic form and can participate in national and regional conferences.

Student Membership (\$27.50/year): Eligible to submit to national and regional conferences and to vote in society matters. Access to all SCI publications.

Student Chapter Membership (\$17.50/year): Same benefits as student members, but only available on campuses having Student Chapters.

Institutional Membership (\$25/year): Organizations receive hard copy of the SCI Newsletter and other mailings.

Lifetime Membership (\$1100 or \$120/year for 10 years): Benefits the same as full members, for life.

Executive Committee

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SCI Student Chapter at the University of Florida

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our first Contemporary Music Festival.

We collaborated with other schools in the UF College of Fine Arts twice this year. In December we participated in a concert at the Digital Worlds Institute, which showcased Professor James Paul Sain's 'microOpera' *evANGELical* as well as works for modular synthesizer, fixed media, and video by our PhD students Andrew Babcock, Zach Lovitch, Rob Seaback and myself. In February, we helped the Fine Arts College Council present its annual Student Juried Exhibition concert, acting as stage and audio crew. This concert featured performances by winners in the choreography and music performance categories as well as the winners for music composition (Benjamin O'Brien and myself).

Michael Sterling Smith, our chapter's treasurer, founded the concert series/ensemble "Nuclear Music," which performed four times this year. The first was a performance of Louis Andriessen's *Workers Union* on the weekly student lunchtime concert, and the second was an entire recital of contemporary music, featuring works by Andriessen, Mark Applebaum, Earle Brown, John Cage, Arvo Pärt, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Viola Yip. The third was a performance of Brian Eno's *Music For Airports*, and the fourth was performance of Terry Riley's *In C*, both during the Contemporary Music Festival. This ensemble is entirely student-run and helps expose other students to contemporary music by established composers.

Our Contemporary Music Festival, spearheaded by Professor Paul Richards, was quite a success and shows what can be accomplished on a shoestring budget. Lei Liang visited for three days, during which he conducted two masterclasses with composition students, two lectures (one more technical for the composers, one more general for the public), and one public coaching with our graduate saxophone quartet. The

public events for the festival included the faculty chamber recital (featuring three works by Liang), student lunchtime concert, UnBalanced Connection electroacoustic concert (featuring works by Liang and UF composers Babcock, Lovitch, O'Brien, Sain, and Seaback), Nuclear Music ensemble concert, University Choir concert, SCI student chapter recital (featuring works by Alexander Boostrom, Michael Polo, Michael Smith, and myself), and Jorge Variego's alumni recital of works for clarinet and electronics.

Essentially, the Festival combined all of the concerts we would normally present in a given semester into one exciting weekend. Aside from the faculty chamber recital and University Choir concerts, the student members of our chapter produced the concerts themselves. This included curating and rehearsing the concerts, securing funding, promotion, stage crew and documentation, performance—even catering. It was exhausting at times, but was actually a great bonding experience for all of us.

I am writing this article both as the President of a student chapter but also as the national Student Representative. I hope it will serve as an example of what a student chapter is capable of, and hopefully inspire my fellow students. If your chapter is doing interesting things—and I'm sure many of you are—it's also important to tell the SCI community. Let us know what you've been up to!

Adam Scott Neal