



# Music Beat

*UPEI Department of Music  
Newsletter*

**WINTER 2022**

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## Nicole Bellamy: Sessional Instructor of Piano

Class of 1998 UPEI Music Alumna Nicole Bellamy returns to UPEI later this month to assume the responsibilities of instruction for our piano studio for the remainder of this academic year while Dr. Magdalena von Eccher is on maternity leave.

Ms. Bellamy brings a wealth of performance and pedagogical experience to this appointment having worked in Toronto as a vocal coach, répétiteur, and collaborative pianist. Two years ago, she and her husband, Mike Ross [UPEI Music Alumnus of the class of 2000], moved back to PEI having acquired Harmony House in Hunter River. You can learn more about Nicole by viewing her interview as part of our Distinguished UPEI Music Alumni Series:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7wVuilP-jQ>



*Photo Right: Nicole Bellamy*

## Susan Stensch to Retire

Our intrepid administrative assistant and audition coordinator, Susan Stensch, will retire from UPEI on June 1, 2022. Ms. Stensch has served in the Department of Music since 2008, following many years in AVC where she served since 1996 as a secretary for the Department of Health Management and, more recently, as administrative assistant to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. In addition to her UPEI responsibilities, Susan is the assistant church organist at St. Peter's Cathedral in Charlottetown. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree (1984) from the University of Prince Edward Island, where she studied organ under the direction of Dr. F. Alan Reesor. Susan has performed in the St. Peter's Cathedral and St. Simon and St. Jude Summer Organ Recital Series on several occasions. Susan loves reading, listening to music, and enjoying the company of her two dogs, Willow, a yellow lab, and Isidora, a Welsh Springer Spaniel. We wish Susan well as she begins this next stage of her life.

*Photo Left: Susan Stensch and Isidora*





# Dr. Frances Gray Performance Competition 2022

Our annual performance competition was named in honor of Dr. Frances Gray, Professor Emerita, in recognition of her forty-five years of devoted teaching, scholarship, and service to UPEI. She had been coordinator of this event for many years. This year's preliminary round was held on February 19 and five performers were recommended by the panel of faculty adjudicators to participate in the competition on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 7:30 PM.

This event will be live streamed at: [https://youtu.be/\\_NpxBOU1c2E](https://youtu.be/_NpxBOU1c2E)

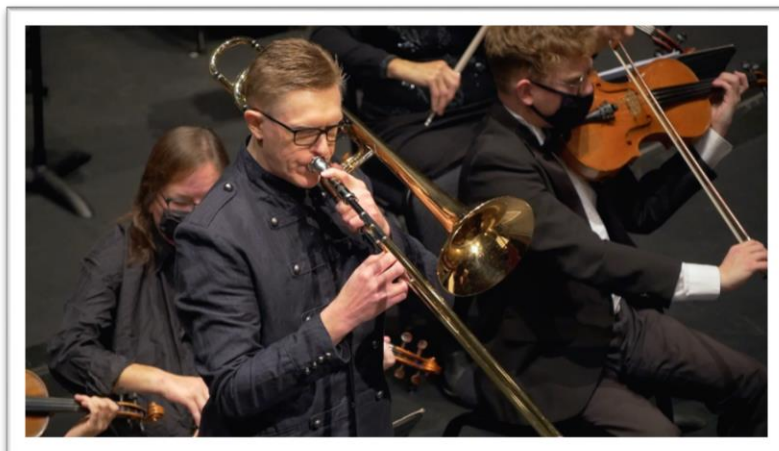
The performers will include:

- Ross Boyd, first year guitar major from the United States
- Devyn Collette, first year saxophone major from Charlottetown, PE
- Kezia David, second year piano major from Oman
- Alexandra Sorensen, fourth year soprano from Charlottetown, PE
- Olive MacPhail, fourth year tuba major from Cornwall, PE



*Photos Above: Ross Boyd, Devyn Collette, Kezia David, Alexandra Sorensen, Olive MacPhail.*

# Dale Sorensen Performs Rota Concerto with PEISO



On November 21, 2021, the PEI Symphony Orchestra gave its first performance as a full-sized orchestra in nearly two years. Among the celebratory works performed was the Italian film composer Nino Rota's Trombone Concerto featuring our own Assistant Professor of Brass, Dale Sorensen. Dale performed with beautiful musical conviction, style, and artistry.

## 2020/21 Dean's List



Last semester, nine music students were recognized at the 2020/21 Dean's List Honours ceremony for their superior academic achievement. Congratulations to all these worthy scholars!

*Pictured L to R: Dr. Dale Sorensen, Isabelle McNeill, Javier Santos Dacarett, Olive MacPhail, Alexandra Sorensen, Megan Grounds, Jeff Gravina, Ziqing Gao, Dr. Karem Simon.  
(Missing from photo: Moira Cairns, Nicholas Murphy).*

# Distinguished UPEI Music Alumni Series

During the fall of 2020, UPEI Department of Music chair, Karem Simon, initiated a series of interviews with our alumni, an opportunity for them to share their music and professional journeys. These were presented live to our students during the time slot reserved for our Friday afternoon student recitals. Whereas the pandemic has been an obstacle for its continuation, this series was recently reimagined as an online platform, which has enabled interviews with our alumni from around the world. As of this writing, interviews have been recorded with:

- Betty Anne Younker (Class of 1978) released February 9, 2022
- Nicole Bellamy (Class of 1998) released February 18, 2022
- Carrie-Ann Matheson (Class of 1996) to be released March 4, 2022
- Jonathan Baird (Class of 1998) to be released March 18, 2022
- Nathan Keoughan (Class of 2010) to be released April 1, 2022

These may be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#).



Photos Above: Betty Anne Younker, Carrie-Ann Matheson, Jonathan Baird, Nathan Keoughan.

## Faculty Featured on Podcasts

On October 2, 2021, Karem Simon was featured as a [guest on The Band Room Podcast](#), where he talked about his musical beginnings, fostering a culture of community and excellence within a small community, being the best musician you can be, the UPEI Wind Symphony and more. On January 17, 2022, Dale Sorensen was featured as a [guest on the New Musings on New Music podcast](#), during which he discussed his role in the commissioning, creation, and promotion of new Canadian music for trombone.

## On the Web

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