On the heels of a wonderful 2013-2014 year—highlights of which include terrific performances by students and faculty, a set of inspiring appearances by guest scholars and musicians, the continuation of our All-Steinway initiative, graduating seniors who are moving on to interesting jobs and graduate programs, welcoming four new faculty members, and a full-scale collaboration with the Theater and Dance Departments for a production of Bernstein's *On the Town*—we have been busy planning ahead and getting ready to welcome new and returning students in the fall.

**Bernstein’s “On the Town”**

Students returned to campus a week early from winter break in order to start preparing for the spring 2014 musical theater production of Leonard Bernstein’s great musical “On the Town.” A bigger undertaking than usual, the performances were held in Palmer Auditorium, with the full CC Orchestra as the pit orchestra. Professors Mark Seto and Wendy Moy were deeply involved in the rehearsal and performance process, as were faculty members from the Theater and Dance departments. It was a wonderful production!
**All-Steinway Initiative**

Last summer we selected a beautiful new Steinway grand (model B) for Fortune Recital Hall, along with three new Boston uprights for practice rooms. The focus of 2014-2015, the third year of our five-year piano initiative, will be updating pianos in a few faculty offices. A group of faculty have already made a visit to Steinway Hall this summer to select these new pianos, which will be delivered in August. Over the next several years all of our pianos will either be replaced or renovated to bring them up to excellent condition, which will enable us to receive the prestigious “All-Steinway” designation from Steinway & Sons. It’s a great time to be a pianist at Conn!

**Concerts and Special Events**

Our faculty recitals for 2013-2014 included two extraordinary “showcase” concerts, both of which included solo and chamber works, along with larger works conducted by Assistant Professor Mark Seto: in the fall the faculty performed Barber’s moving “Knoxville: Summer of 1915,” and in the spring they performed John Adams’s stunning “Son of Chamber Symphony.” Other faculty recitals included a performance of the full *Dichterliebe* song cycle by Maksim Ivanov and Patrice Newman, and appropriately “spooky” music during John Anthony’s annual Halloween concert in Harkness Chapel. Daniel Lee, who is on our violin faculty, was featured prominently in our Dayton Artist-in-Residence program, which included an early music series with his group the *Sebastians*. As part of the Dayton program we also hosted a terrific week-long residency by the Dublin Guitar Quartet in the fall, and by jazz bassist/composer Mario Pavone in the spring. Throughout the series we enjoyed some incredible masterclasses.
New faces

We welcomed four wonderful new faculty members this year: Teddy Arm, who joined Daniel Lee as a violin/viola teacher; Christine Coyle, who is our new cello teacher; Josh Thomas, who teaches classical saxophone; and Wendy Moy, who directs our Chamber Choir and the newly-formed smaller choir, the Camel Heard, and also coordinates our music education program. They all have settled in quickly, and we’re delighted to have them here.

Other highlights

- The music department was deeply involved in the inauguration events for the college’s new president, Katherine Bergeron
- We bid adieu to a terrific group of seniors. We wish them well in all of their future endeavors!
- Our faculty continue to be extraordinarily productive as performers, scholars, conductors, and composers
- Three students were accepted by audition into the New England Intercollegiate Band Festival
- We welcomed back Jeff Barnhart ’89 and John Clark ’90 for a rousing performance of early jazz
Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars for these upcoming special events (a full listing is available on our website):

Perspectives on Baroque Music: A Faculty Showcase
Faculty perform chamber music by Dowland, Biber, and J.S. Bach, along with later works inspired by Baroque music
Friday, September 12, 2014, 7:30 pm

Prism: An Ensemble Sampler
A varied program showcasing the Connecticut College Chamber Choir, Camel Heard, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, and Percussion and New Music Ensemble
Gary Buttery, Wendy Moy, and Peter Jarvis, directors
Friday, October 10, 2014, 7:00 pm

Reclaimed Sounds: A Saxophone Recital
Joshua Thomas performs works for the concert saxophone exploring preexisting sounds set in a new context, ranging from Greek harmonies in Terzakis’s “Der Holle Nacklang I” to the sounds of Eddie Van Halen and Victor Wooten in Schumacher’s “Deconstructing” series
Friday, November 7, 2014, 7:30 pm

Handel’s Messiah
The Connecticut College Chamber Choir, Camel Heard, and Orchestra present part 1 and selections from parts 2 and 3 of Handel’s beloved oratorio, culminating in the “Hallelujah Chorus”
Wendy Moy, director
Saturday, November 15, 2014, 7:00 pm

Violin & Piano Duo Recital: Schumann and Ravel
Pianist Kumi Ogano performs with acclaimed violinist Rolf Schulte in a program juxtaposing works by Schumann and Ravel
Friday, January 30, 2015, 7:30 pm

Perspectives on Modernism: A Faculty Showcase
Music faculty explore groundbreaking works that foreshadow and exemplify musical modernism
Mark Seto, director
Friday, February 13, 2015, 7:30 pm

Around the World with Music: Arias and Songs
Soprano Jurate Waller is joined by Lithuanian pianist Audrone Kisieliute in a recital of Lithuanian, American, Italian, and German arias and art songs
Saturday, March 28, 2015, 7:30 pm