



Canisius Comes Alive with the Sound of Music

THE MUSIC PROGRAM AT
CANISIUS CRESCENDOS,
UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF JANE CARY

As the last instrument was tuned and the remaining seats filled, the curtain rose on one of the most exciting music events to take the stage at Canisius College. It took countless hours of planning, preparation and promotion but when the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra struck its first chord with the Canisius Chorale to open its campus concert series, **Jane Cary** knew the college's music program hit another high note.

For Cary, the "Canisius and the BPO Connection" concert series is a labor of love and a long-standing tradition for both Canisius and the Western New York community.

STORY BY EILEEN C. HERBERT
PHOTOS BY K.C. KRATT



Jane Cary

~ Associate Professor of Fine Arts ~
 ~ Director of Music ~
 ~ Coordinator of ArtsCanisius ~

INSTRUMENTS
 Harpsichord
 Piano

BEGAN TEACHING AT CANISIUS
 1983

NAMED MUSIC DIRECTOR
 1994

NOTEWORTHY
 MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS
Performs with the BPO
Performs with the
Niagara Falls Philharmonic
Performs with the Ars Nova
Musicians Chamber Orchestra
Director of Cantio Sacra,
college's chamber singers

EDUCATION
Undergraduate Degree ~
Syracuse University
Graduate Degreee ~
Eastman School of Music

The college has enjoyed a rich history with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra,” says Cary, who is director of the college’s music program, an associate professor of fine arts and accomplished harpsichordist. “Our relationship with the orchestra dates back to the 1940s when Kleinhans first opened.”

It was Canisius and the Alumni Association that sponsored the very first public concert in the Mary Seaton Room of Kleinhans. But it wasn’t until decades later that the late Edith DeLuca, a beloved professor of music and assistant to the dean for cultural affairs, realized her goal of bringing classical music to the Canisius campus. In 1978, DeLuca established “The BPO Goes to College,” a unique and unprecedented concert series that brought members of the Buffalo Philharmonic to campus, for the very first time, to perform.

Renamed “Canisius and the BPO Connection,” the concert series is now more popular than ever with the musicians performing to sell out crowds in the magnificently restored Montante Cultural Center. Much of that credit is due to Cary, who continues to build on the 60-year relationship between Canisius and the BPO, while finding new ways to enhance the college’s music program. Motivated by the strong belief that music plays an instrumental part in the Jesuit philosophy of developing the whole person, Cary says it is her goal “to cultivate an appreciation of music that students will carry with them forever.”

Since becoming director of the music program in 1994, Cary has developed many new educational ways to cultivate student appreciation of music. She established a music minor and hopes to soon debut a music major at Canisius. She introduced the college’s very first *Composer-in-Residence*, Persis Parshall Vehar, an internationally renowned composer with more than 100 vocal and instrumental compositions to her credit. Cary also added new music courses to the curriculum and increased the number of music ensembles.

“One of my main concerns was that students didn’t have access to music after high school,” explains Cary, who also initiated a new student club called Chamber Music Ensembles. The club allows two or three students to get together to play. “They can perform in recitals if they choose, but it is not required. The main idea is that they have an opportunity to play.”

In an effort to increase participation in music ensembles, Cary turned the jazz ensemble, concert band and chorale into credit-bearing courses. As a result, the Canisius Chorale has grown from 15 to 100 students in just a few short years and the concert band, which began with 23 students, now numbers 40. To date, more than 230 students participate in the college’s music program. Cary notes, “There are a lot of students involved in the program who major in all areas but just love music.”

Denise (Bishop) Giessert ’00 was one such student. The pre-med major played flute in high school and wanted to continue her training throughout college. Giessert says she was happy to be able to take advantage of the music opportunities on campus.

“Playing in a music ensemble was just what I was looking for when I came to Canisius. The program gave me the opportunity to stay involved in music.”

Cary adds it is her aim to “provide students with as many opportunities as possible so they can keep music a part of their life.”

One of the most noteworthy opportunities comes by way of the “Canisius and the BPO Connection” concert series. When first established by DeLuca in the late 70s, the Philharmonic performed alone at

Canisius and the BPO Connection concert schedule

Visit the college’s Web site at
www.canisius.edu/music for additional
 concert information.

Canisius. Under Cary's direction, the concert series has expanded to include Canisius students accompanying the Philharmonic on stage.

At the season's opening concert, the Canisius Chorale performed with the BPO and the Blessed Sacrament Choir. When the concert series concludes this spring, the Canisius Concert Band will perform a concert in the Mary Seaton Room at Kleinhans prior to the BPO performance on March 28.

"Being able to perform with the BPO is such a great learning experience," says Laura Gellin '04, a member of the Canisius Chorale. "Because they are such an elite group of musicians, we really push our level of expertise to rise to that level for the audience, the BPO and the conductor."

"It is so important for students to understand and experience the BPO music in a live setting," adds **Martha Malkiewicz**, adjunct professor of music. "This way they can develop a better appreciation for orchestra life." As a bassoonist with the Philharmonic, Malkiewicz has served as liaison between the two institutions, since arriving on campus in 1988, and works closely with Cary to further nurture the Canisius-BPO relationship.

When budget troubles affected the orchestra in the mid-1990s and almost silenced the relationship, it was Malkiewicz who kept the BPO on campus.

"If the orchestra only played at Kleinhans, we would lose much of the power of taking the music to the people," explains Malkiewicz. To prevent this, she

went to Cary and presented an idea to arrange chamber performances at Canisius. The concerts, hosted by Malkiewicz, would feature select BPO musicians, from the orchestra's string, wind or brass sections, performing in an intimate setting and discussing with the audience information about the compositions, composers and the musicians. The idea struck a chord with Cary and together the duo initiated the Informally-Formal concerts. "By bringing a few BPO musicians to campus to perform, we could keep the partnership going until the full orchestra could come back to the college," adds Malkiewicz. Even after that happened in 1997, Cary and Malkiewicz opted to keep the Informally-Formal concerts and make them part of the Canisius and BPO concert series.

In fall 2000, the duo again heightened the Canisius-BPO relationship when Malkiewicz introduced "The Canisius and BPO Experience." The three-credit music course provides students with the opportunity to incorporate classroom lessons with orchestra life. Under Malkiewicz's direction, students attend BPO concerts at Kleinhans Music Hall; tour back stage to meet the orchestra's management, musicians and conductors; and sit in on guest lectures by members of the Philharmonic.

As these new music opportunities for students crescendo, so do the opportunities Cary provides for the Canisius and Buffalo communities, who are eager to enjoy the talent the college's Fine Arts Department has to offer. Each month, the ArtsCanisius program, which is also coordinated by Cary, features premier musical and fine art talent on campus. This year's lineup boasts nearly 50 events including jazz saxophonist Don Menza, who played alongside Don Ellis, Cedar Walton and Leo Wright.

Most events are free of charge. All are open to the public. And at every performance or showing, you will see Jane Cary in attendance, insuring that the sound of music continues to fill the Canisius campus. And to that we say, "Bravo!" ■



Martha Malkiewicz

~ Adjunct Associate Professor of Fine Arts ~
~ Musician with the BPO ~

INSTRUMENTS

Bassoon

Contrabassoon

BEGAN TEACHING AT CANISIUS
1988

NOTEWORTHY MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Member of BPO

Studied at Hochschule for Musik
(Vienna, Austria)

Recipient of Young Musicians Award
(Vienna, Austria)

Soloed throughout Germany

EDUCATION

Undergraduate Degree ~
Indiana University

Graduate Degree ~
Eastman School of Music

FEBRUARY 4

7:30 p.m. | Montante Cultural Center
Informally-Formal Chamber Concert
Members of the BPO wind section perform

MARCH 4

7:30 p.m. | Montante Cultural Center
Informally-Formal Chamber Concert
Members of the BPO brass section perform

MARCH 28

7:30 p.m. | Kleinhans Music Hall
Mary Seaton Room
Canisius College Concert Band performs prior
to BPO concert