



MAMM Alliance for the Performing Arts at Cal State Fullerton provides support for the School of Music and Theatre & Dance Department

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear MAMM Alliance Members,

This year MAMM has so much to celebrate!

We started the year with another successful membership drive, allowing us to support our very talented students in the School of Music and Department of Theatre and Dance. We thank you for your continued support and ask you to please encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join us as well. This academic year we produced two fabulous events—one that highlighted our extraordinarily talented students before they went on the road to perform on Broadway, and a second spectacular event that highlighted our successful alumnae, *Brooke Aston and the Titan Divas*.

Our biggest news this year was the surprise gift of \$100,000 to our endowment, made by the estate trustees of D. Richard Odle at our *Titan Divas* event. As much as this was a huge surprise and honor, it speaks to the lovely and lasting connection between Richard and MAMM Alliance. As you can only imagine, it set the tone for a fabulous evening of celebrating Titan Talent and Pride.

As always, thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors and CSUF staff that shares their time, talent and treasure to ensure the success of MAMM Alliance. Please, members, reach out to us at anytime if you have any suggestions to expand our reach, increase our membership, or if you are willing to serve in some capacity on our Board of Directors. Stay tuned for all our wonderful events for our members during the 2019-2020 academic year. Go Titans!



Membership

We are excited and so proud of the outstanding accomplishments of our students in the Theatre and Dance Department and the School of Music. In this newsletter, you will learn more about the direct impact your membership has on the students.

It soon will be time for our annual membership drive. Thank you in advance for continued support. Please encourage your friends to join as well! MAMM is the Alliance for the Performing Arts.

Tusks Up!

Judy Atwell, Membership and Board Development

Broadway Bound!

The MAMM Alliance produced its 2nd Annual *Broadway Bound!* event to an enthusiastic crowd in the Clayes Performing Arts Center on January 27th. Under the direction of faculty member Bill Lett, this year's 12 senior BFA Musical Theatre students performed a fast-paced and delightful preview of many of the numbers they would be including in their annual Musical Theatre Showcase in New York City. The Showcase is held for casting directors, agents and CSUF alumni every Spring. This year's class would also be meeting with recent "Showcase Alum" Devon Hadsell who is currently in the cast of *Mean Girls* on Broadway. MAMM Alliance has been a primary donor, sponsoring the Department of Theatre and Dance's Musical Theatre Showcase.

A reception and meet-and-greet with the seniors followed the performance. Guests also had the opportunity to meet the junior BFA class, who are looking forward to their performance in *Broadway Bound!* next year. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 26, 2020!



BFA Musical Theatre New York Showcase

The 2019 BFA Showcase was held at St Luke's Theatre in NYC on April 4th with a reception hosted by the CSUF Alumni Association. We had over 92 alumni, friends, family, and agents attend this year. This was also the first year that we had master classes for the students to take around the showcase. The students had a master class at STEPS, a famous dance studio, a meet-and-greet with Actors Equity at Pearl Studios, and a talkback after they saw the musical *Cher*.



Brooke Aston and the Titan Divas

It was a rare and magical night in Meng Concert Hall as MAMM Alliance members and their friends thrilled to the performance of “Brooke Aston and the Titan Divas” on Saturday, March 23. Alumna Brooke Aston ('02) and her band were joined on stage by three other Titan alumnae—Emily Mitchell ('00), Marlene Martinez ('07) and Megan Sullivan ('02)—who returned to their alma mater to support the efforts of the MAMM Alliance.

The four ladies brought to the stage collective professional credits which include regional theatre, Broadway, national and international tours of Broadway shows, as well as appearances at signature CSUF events such as Concert Under the Stars, Front and Center and Vision and Visionaries. The evening was a tribute to the American Songbook and to fabulous women singers who brought it to life, including Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Aretha Franklin and many more. The evening’s performance concluded with a rousing performance of “We Are Family” that bought the crowd to its feet. After the concert, guests were treated to a dessert reception and a chance to chat with the performers in the McCarty Grand Foyer. As always, a special thanks go to our generous donors who provided underwriting in support of the concert.



Richard Odle's Lasting Legacy

At the *Brooke Aston and the Titan Divas* event, there was a surprise presentation on stage just prior to the concert. Dean Merrill invited Teri Allen, Dale Raoul and Ray Thompson on stage and they spoke about Richard Odle, who produced many memorable events for MAMM Alliance in recent years. Richard passed away in July 2018. They were very pleased to present a \$100,000 check to the MAMM Alliance Endowment Fund from Richard's estate. That will bring the balance of the endowment fund up to nearly \$400,000. Richard will be remembered for such a meaningful and lasting gift to the organization he supported with enthusiasm and generosity.



MAMM Alliance Impact Report—School of Music

Below are excerpts from the School of Music report, showing the programs made possible, in part by the grants from MAMM Alliance for 2018-2019.

- The **Talich String Quartet** Residency was held from February 4-10. All string students had private lessons with individual Quartet members, performed in masterclasses where they were coached by the Quartet, heard a concert presented by the Quartet, and performed side-by-side with the Quartet in a concert of string chamber music. The students had the opportunity to hear these professional musicians up-close and therefore were able to shape their own playing alongside the Quartet members—a memorable experience that they will likely talk about for years to come.
- Italian-born pianist **Antonio Pompa-Baldi** was in residence in from March 26-28, during which he gave a master class, held a Q & A session with students, plus presented a public concert. He is an award-winning concert pianist and also now professor of music at the Cleveland Institute of Music. The experience was powerful for the students—listening, conversing, and studying with Professor Pompa-Baldi further strengthened their insights into music and piano performance.
- **Family-friendly concerts** are important to help cultivate new youth and family audiences. The University Symphony Orchestra performed a Children’s Ballet recently composed by Kimo Furumoto entitled “The Mandarin Ducks.” The premiere performance of the music was given on Sunday, November 4, 2018.
- The **University’s Wind Symphony** was honored with an invitation to perform at the College Band Director’s National Association in February in Arizona. This invitation represents the highest possible achievement available to a university wind ensemble. In fact, only eight ensembles are invited each year and, in the 78-year history of the national conference, only three ensembles from California have received invitations to perform. The 55-member Wind Symphony attended the Conference for two days (traveling there by bus) and, besides rehearsing, heard other performances, lectures, research presentations, and exhibits presenting the latest trends and innovative ideas in wind literature and performance.

The BFA Acting Showcase

The academic year culminates with FILMAPALOOZA '19, a showcase of a compilation of the BFA student’s film work screening in the Titan Theatre in the TSU on May 8th. On May 13th, FILMAPALOOZA '19 was presented at the AMC Theatre in City Walk at Universal Studios Hollywood to an almost sold-out house following with a reception at Jimmy Buffett’s Margaritaville.

SAVE THE DATE!

CSUF Concert Under the Stars	9/21/19
MAMM Alliance Annual Meeting & <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	10/11/19
<i>Broadway Bound!</i>	1/26/20

“New” Alumni News

We are pleased to share updates on **School of Music** 2019 grads who earned admission into prestigious masters and doctoral programs.

Master of Music Programs

Cameron Johnson—University of Michigan (full scholarship) He will also be singing Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* this summer in Atlanta with the Harrower Summer Opera Program. He has already been scheduled to sing the role of Fenton next year with the Fia Italia opera program.

Amanda Yu You Lo—Northwestern University (full scholarship)

Omar Rodriguez—Boston University School of Music (scholarship)

Jessica Hetrick—Boston University School of Music (scholarship)

Kiana Garvey—Boston Conservatory (scholarship)

Jeff Gumpertz—The Royal Conservatory of Music in Scotland

Daniel Monaghan—University of Louisville (Graduate Teaching Assistantship)

Andrew Ordonez—UCLA

Doctoral Programs

Heather Moore—USC in Musicology (full fellowship and funding)

Shirley Chikukwa—Columbia University in Ethnomusicology (full fellowship and funding)