

# Festival shows off composers

BY MIKEY KARTJE  
Staff Reporter

While attending the New Music Festival, rubbing elbows with a composer is not out of the question as audience members might have the opportunity to sit next to the creators of the music played.

The New Music Festival, which begins at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall, presents audience members with new music by composers, some of whom are students and faculty at Truman State.

The opportunity to hear music written by living composers, some of which is being performed for the first time, could be the most important experience for the general audience, music professor Warren Gooch said. He said not only are the composers still alive and writing, but there is a

good chance students could end up sitting next to one in the crowd because several pieces were written by faculty members. During the past, student compositions also have been a part of the festival.

Gooch, the festival's faculty coordinator for each of its 10 years of existence, said that despite the fact it might only seem interesting to those involved in the music department, it is geared toward a more general audience.

Senior Max Meigel, a music pre-education major and the Phi Mu Alpha representative for the festival, said attendees should be able to make the distinction between the modern music presented at the festival and traditional concert music. Some of the more modern pieces mix wind instruments with electronic sounds, Gooch said, and one piece is entirely electronic.

**▮ If you have an open mind, you will be able to experience something cool and new. ▮**

— Max Meigel  
junior

"If you have an open mind, you will be able to experience something cool and new," Meigel said.

Besides exposure to recently composed contemporary music, students should be excited to see the University's talent in action through a variety of musical me-

diums, Gooch said. Varying groups will perform at the festival, such as a 30-member clarinet choir.

Guest composer Christopher Biggs will host two masters classes that will focus on composition and will be directed toward the New Music Festival's third sponsoring organization, the Mostly Live Composers Society. Gooch said personal interaction with a living composer is a much more enriching experience than reading about a deceased one.

Music composition majors, he said, are exposed to contemporary compositions they do not have the opportunity to study regularly. Students majoring in music performance obtain the opportunity to play different styles of music than they usually do through exposure to these unique compositions. Such styles often are more difficult to learn than traditional pieces.

"It pushes you to do things that you don't normally do," Meigel said.

Students studying music education also are benefited, because once they have learned to play a piece or style, they can design a more effective approach to teach others, Meigel said.

Senior Jennifer Brown has similar responsibilities as the New Music Festival representative for Sigma Alpha Iota, one of the sponsoring organizations. She also puts together groups to help out in the background of the festival. She also is in charge of organizing the entry forms for the annual MACRO Composers Competition. Composers from around the globe enter, and the winner is asked to attend the next New Music Festival as the guest composer, so accuracy is paramount to her work.

"I have learned the benefits of being organized, keeping open communication, and working in a timely fashion," she said.

The New Music Festival will be held at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall.



Jessie Poole/Index  
Freshman Morgan Bredow is a typical Truman State student, according to the Fall 2011 fact sheet created by Nancy Asher, testing and reporting coordinator and associate budget officer.

# Average students find personal experience

BY EMILY BATTMER  
Staff Reporter

Freshman Leah Dobby is the "typical" Truman State student. Statistically, she is one of many — she's from the St. Louis area, the most common hometown, she studies the most common major, and she's part of the largest graduating class at Truman.

It could be easy for someone like Dobby to feel lost in the crowd, but organizations and relationships provide even the most typical Truman students with opportunities to find their place on campus and to keep from blending in.

The "typical" Truman student tends to be far from average academically, according to the Fall 2011 fact sheet created by Nancy Asher, testing and reporting coordinator and associate budget officer. The class of 2011 had an average 27.12 ACT score and a high school grade point average of 3.76, according to the fall 2011 fact sheet.

"School comes first," said Rachele Williams, campus activities program adviser. "[The students] are here for the education, and you definitely see that time and time again. They work really hard."

With 50 percent of Truman

graduates immediately entering graduate school and a 97 percent acceptance rate to law school, according to the Provost Office, Truman's academic reputation is not unwarranted.

"Every time I look at someone I think, 'Man, they're smart. They're at Truman,'" Dobby said. "They really want to succeed. In high school, there were always those people who couldn't care less. I haven't met anyone like that here."

The average Truman student's involvement goes far beyond the classroom. Eighty nine percent of students are currently involved in a student organization, and 96 percent of students would recommend becoming involved in student activities and organizations, according to the Center for Student Involvement student involvement fact sheet.

"They're serious students, but they also want to enjoy themselves while they're here and they find groups of likeminded students so they can do that," Asher said.

With 233 active organizations to choose from, there is something for everyone, Williams said. Becoming a member of one of these organizations is something a typical student can do to help define themselves at a campus of

high-achievers.

It's not just about individual students finding their place on campus, but about groups of students coming together to be successful and support each other, Williams said.

"The cool part about Truman is that organizations and areas of study don't attract just one kind of person," she said. "There is diversity within those groups that enable different organizations and committees to succeed."

Asher and Williams categorized the typical Truman student as someone who wants to be successful and do their best, but Williams said there is diversity within that mindset in their worldview, major and activities. For this reason, she said, students from similar backgrounds still will be able to have varied experiences on campus.

Dobby said she has found her home at Truman within Campus Christian Fellowship, where instead of blending in with likeminded students, she has found a way to make a difference on campus.

"I don't know what [God's] plan for me is," Dobby said. "But being here, I've already been growing in my faith. I'm already understanding why He wanted me to be here."

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If you have questions about the Orientation Leader position, please contact Jacob Funke in the Admission Office by phone (660-785-4114) or email ([jfunke@truman.edu](mailto:jfunke@truman.edu)).