

Meet the Finalists in the Concerto Competition

The CSU Symphony Orchestra's February 19, 2008 Concert includes the exciting annual concerto competition! Dawn Grapes, flute; Dallin Kuzmich, violin; and Gregory Gates, marimba are the final three concerto competition survivors, pared down from 26 entrants.

Conductor Wes Kenney says, "Every year the competition gets more difficult to judge as a result of the level of our competitors always moving up. This great event is coupled with the early 20th century's great symphonists. It is sure evening of drama and intrigue."

GREGORY GATES (Junior, Marimba)



Gregory Gates is a native of Arvada, Colorado. He started instrumental music on the saxophone in fourth grade and was later introduced to jazz in middle school. In high school, he started learning instruments in the low brass family as well as bassoon. Striving to be a well-rounded musician, he played alto saxophone in the all-county band as well as sang bass in the all-county choir. As a member of Arvada High School's percussion ensemble, he competed in Rocky Mountain Percussion Association events for three years before coming to CSU to be a full time percussionist.

What do you like most about the CSU Music Department? Our recent increasing reputation as a fine music school.

How do you feel about being a finalist in the Concerto Competition? Playing with the full orchestra is going to be a truly amazing experience!

K. DAWN GRAPES (2nd Year Master's Degree Candidate, Flute)



Dawn Grapes received a Bachelor of Music degree in flute performance from Western Michigan University, and is currently a Master of Music candidate in flute performance at Colorado State University where she studies with Dr. Michelle Stanley. While at CSU, she has been principal flute with the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Opera Orchestra. She also is Director of the newly formed CSU Flute Choir and Assistant Director of the Collegium Musicum Early Music Ensemble. Grapes has performed with the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra and the Fort Collins Wind Symphony. She is a two year member of the National Flute Association Professional Flute Choir and has performed at national conventions in Pittsburgh and Albuquerque. She spent four years as 2nd flute/piccolo with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra and several years as flute instructor at Southern Utah University.

What do you like most about the CSU Music Department? The CSU Music Department has grown exponentially in the last few years and yet it maintains a warm atmosphere that fosters a certain camaraderie among its students. The individual faculty members are excellent and go out of their way to create a great learning environment and artistic growth experience.

How do you feel about being a finalist in the Concerto Competition? It is really a gift for any instrumentalist to be given the opportunity to perform a concerto with an orchestra. That is truly the ultimate prize!

DALLIN KUZMICH (Senior, Violin)



Dallin Kuzmich began playing the violin at the age of five, taught by his mother. He has continued to play and has participated in several youth orchestras and various solo competitions. He will graduate in May with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

What do you like most about the CSU Music Department? I enjoy the collaborative process that goes on in putting together musical masterpieces such as operas and large-scale symphonic works.

How do you feel about being a finalist in the Concerto Competition? I feel humbled to be selected to perform the Glazunov Violin Concerto with the CSU Symphony Orchestra and anxiously look forward to this spectacular event.

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