Calendar of Events

February 1—February 24
- Peace, Love, Posters exhibit in Perkinson Art Gallery

Thursday, February 2
- Guest Instrumental Recital featuring Mark Valenti, piano, 7:30 pm in Kaeuper Hall

Friday, February 3
- After 5 Live!, 5:00-7:30 pm at Blue Connection Art Gallery, 117 N. Water Street

Saturday, February 4
- Jazz at Lock, Stock, and Barrel with Billy Rogers & the Hip Replacements, 3:30-5:30 pm
- Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra Masterworks III, 7:30 pm in Kirkland Fine Arts Center

February 9, 10 & 11
- Opera—Of Tricks and Trades: A Mozart Double Bill, 7:30 pm in Albert Taylor Theatre

Saturday, February 11
- Jazz at Lock, Stock, & Barrel with Craig Russo Latin Jazz Project, 3:30-5:30 pm
- What’s Going On—The Marvin Gaye Experience, 7:30 pm in Kirkland Fine Arts Center

Perkinson Art Gallery

Peace, Love, Posters
February 1—24th
Perkinson Art Gallery in Kirkland Fine Arts Center
Gallery Hours: Monday—Friday, 12:00-5:00 pm, or by appointment
Free and open to the public

The social, cultural, and political petri dish of the psychedelic 60’s and 70’s gave birth to a clearly defined design style that culminated in Rock and Roll concert posters that continue to enliven audiences around the world via their dynamic color palettes, subject matter, and original typography. The exhibit Peace, Love & Posters will be eye candy for those who appreciate graphic design and make the "trip" to view this incredible collection.

CFA Patrons Society

The Millikin University College of Fine Arts Patrons Society was created to benefit the over 600 Millikin student-artists participating in nearly 20 degree programs. The Patrons Society provides budget support and helps create special projects which might otherwise go unfunded. The society’s mission is to bring together the university and individuals who believe in the promotion and support of the fine and performing arts and the student-artist at Millikin University. If you would like more information about the Patrons Society, you can visit the web at: www.millikin.edu/patrons-society, or you may also contact us by phone at the College of Fine Arts 217-362-6499.
Guest Instrumental Recital

Mark Valenti, piano
Solo Recital, Thursday, February 2, 7:30 pm in Kaeuper Hall
Teaching Presentation, “Teaching in the Positive”
Friday, February 3, 10:00 am in Perkinson Music Center, Room 105
Free and open to the public

Millikin University School of Music & the Decatur Area Music Teachers Association present guest pianist Mark Valenti in a recital and a presentation on February 2 & 3, 2017. Mark Valenti received his Master of Music from Northwestern University, Bachelor of Music from the Philadelphia Musical Academy and has studied with such notable teachers as Benjamin Whitten, Zoltan Kocsis and Mary Sauer. In addition to giving solo recitals in cities throughout the U.S., Mr. Valenti has performed in France, Belgium, Hungary and Luxembourg as well as for former First Lady Barbara Bush in Washington, D.C. Mark Valenti has performed in recital live on WFMT classical radio. He has also done extensive work in the Jazz field including performances with Gregory Hines, Frank Foster and Al Grey and has appeared on television with Joe Sudler’s Swing Machine and singer/actor Christopher Durham. Formerly Professor of Music at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Xavier University in Chicago and the Loire Valley Music Institute in France, Mr. Valenti currently teaches at his studio in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago and is available for lessons for all levels and all styles.

Calendar of Events Continued

Sunday, February 12
- Opera—Of Tricks and Trades: A Mozart Double Bill, 2:00 pm in Albert Taylor Theatre

Thursday, February 16
- Faculty Instrumental Recital featuring Chris Nolte, upright bass, 7:30 pm in Kaeuper Hall

Saturday, February 18
- Jazz at Lock, Stock, and Barrel with Decatur Big Band, 3:30-5:30 pm
- Groove for Thought, 7:30 pm in Kirkland Fine Arts Center

Sunday, February 19
- Synergy, 7:30 pm in Kirkland Fine Arts Center

Saturday, February 25
- Jazz at Lock, Stock, and Barrel with Kevin Hart & the Vibe Tribe, 3:30-5:30 pm

Sunday, February 26
- Faculty Recital Series featuring Mark Anderson, guitar, 4:00 pm in Kaeuper Hall

February 27—March 31
- Faculty Biennial Art Show in Perkinson Art Gallery

Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra

Masterworks III
A Voyage of Discovery: Space and Fast Machines
Saturday, February 4, 7:30 pm
Kirkland Fine Arts Center

This concert brings together music that looks to the future and beyond our imagination into the Universe. In Milhaud’s Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra, Jeremy Brunk plays a multitude of percussion instruments depicting sounds of military and rainforest, creating vivid and mysterious moods. Hovhaness’ evocative Meditations on Orpheus takes us to the underworld, while Holst’s masterwork takes us on a journey through space.
Millikin Opera Theatre

Of Trick and Trades:
A Mozart Double Bill
February 9, 10, 11 at 7:30 pm
February 12 at 2:00 pm
Albert Taylor Theatre
Tickets: $4-$14

This entertaining double bill takes a trip through the rough-and-tumble timeless world of theatre. We witness the influence of an experienced conman over two seemingly hopeless lovers; a theatre on the verge of bankruptcy, a newly appointed director who already wishes to retire, a delusional and stage-hungry assistant, and two opera divas auditioning for the same part, under the “protection” of a power-hungry-misogynistic business man.

School of Theatre and Dance News

The Chicago premier of the Kander and Ebb musical *The Scottsboro Boys* will open in at the Porchlight Music Theatre in February. Millikin will be very well represented in this production featuring SOTAD alumni, Maurice Randle (’16) (top right), Denzel Tsopnang (’14) (bottom right) and Travis Wright (’12) (center left). The musical focuses on the true story of the wrongful conviction of 9 African American teenagers in an Alabama court in the early 1930’s. Told in a minstrel show style, *The Scottsboro Boys* was originally directed and choreographed by 5 time Tony award winner, Susan Stroman and received critical acclaim when it opened in Broadway in 2010. The Porchlight production runs February 3 through March 12.

SOTAD alum, Jen Tullock (’06), can currently be seen in a national commercial for H&R Block featuring John Hamm. In the commercial, Jen plays Mr. Hamm’s assistant as he frantically makes his way around the back lot of a Hollywood studio. Jen has appeared in a number of national commercials including a Walmart Holiday spot and Twix Bite Size candy. Jen wrote and starred in a short film entitled Disengage, which was featured at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

The School of Theatre and Dance has been receiving quite a bit of acclaim in recent months having appeared last fall on two national top ten lists for BFA Musical Theatre programs. In January, one of the most acclaimed theatre industry publications, American Theatre Magazine, included Millikin in a list of 12 outstanding Musical Theatre programs outside of New York City. This recognition is a testament to the commitment of the dedicated faculty who have worked tirelessly to make Millikin a national name for excellence in theatre training. With the continued support of the administration, the School of Theatre and Dance will strive to maintain its place among the prestigious programs with whom it shares these honors.
What’s Going On -
The Marvin Gaye Experience  
Saturday, February 11, 7:30 pm  
Kirkland Fine Arts Center  
Tickets: $20-$35

A tribute to one of the greatest talents being sung by the new voice of American soul Brian Owens. As one of the pioneers of Motown, singer-songwriter and producer Marvin Gaye helped shape the sound of R&B music and is considered one of the greatest artists of all time. What’s Going On: The Marvin Gaye Experience is Brian’s tribute to the legendary artist and includes music selections that span Gaye’s music-making career. Early solo hits like “Can I Get a Witness” and “I Heard It Through the Grapevine” share space with “You’re All I Need to Get By” and other classic duets. Any Marvin Gaye song list would be incomplete without perennial and challenging crowd-pleasers like “Let’s Get It On” or “Got To Give It Up.”

Did you know Brian Owens is a former Millikin student and Ferguson, Missouri native? Check out a recent Rolling Stone article on Brian Owens and his new album, featuring a collaboration with five-time Grammy winner Michael McDonald by clicking HERE! Fans of Motown, Marvin Gaye, and R&B will NOT want to miss this amazing LIVE performance. Get your tickets now!

Groove for Thought  
Saturday, February 18, 7:30 pm  
Kirkland Fine Arts Center  
Tickets: $15-$30

The seven singers of Groove for Thought have been blowing audiences away for over 15 years. Performing classic tunes in a jazz style unlike anything you’ve heard, the group combines the swinging style of The Manhattan Transfer with the smooth sounds of Take 6. Groove for Thought is proud to announce the release of their latest recording Unnecessary Dissonance.

Check out their website at http://www.grooveforthought.com/
Synergy Percussion Ensemble
Sunday, February 19, 7:30 pm
Kirkland Fine Arts Center
Free and open to the public

This year’s Percussion Ensemble Synergy concert sets out to explore the relationship between music and the cognitive sciences. The program will incorporate a variety of interesting musical corollaries including, auditory illusion, entrainment and swarm intelligence. The ensemble will also collaborate with Georgia State University multi-media artist, Craig Dongoski, and student members of Millikin’s dance department in the premiere of a work incorporating biofeedback, dance and percussion. This work will utilize an electroencephalograph to convert brainwaves into MIDI signals that can then be transformed into a variety of musical elements.

Self-Employment in the Arts

Self-Employment in the Arts Conference
Friday, February 24—Saturday, February 25
Hilton Hotel in Lisle, Illinois

The Annual Conference is geared towards emerging visual, performing, literary, and media artists. Activities include keynote presentations, artist-led sessions, panel discussions, one-on-one mentoring sessions, round table discussions, and workshops. There are also performances, a juried college art competition, improved idea pitch competition for artists, and late night activity rooms. For educators, there are also sessions and opportunities to share best practices.

The event starts around 1:00 pm on Friday and concludes around 4:00 pm on Saturday. Interested in learning more? Contact Kate Flemming, kflemming@millikin.edu.

Perkinson Art Gallery

Faculty Biennial Art Show
February 27-March 31
Perkinson Art Gallery in
Kirkland Fine Arts Center
Gallery Hours: Monday—Friday, 12:00-5:00 pm,
or by appointment
Free and open to the public

Works from the faculty in the Art Department will be featured in this exhibition. On view will be a variety of mediums and styles representative of a diversity of aesthetic approaches toward art making. Included in the exhibition: John Hansen, Jamie Kotewa, Johnny Power, Lyle Salmi, James Schietinger, Edwin Walker, and Jessa Wilcoxen.
New Musicals Workshop

The Workshop has developed over the years into an exciting, collaborative learning experience for Millikin students, faculty, and for increasingly high-level professionals in the Musical Theatre industry. Within the January Immersion course format, Millikin students and faculty directors collaborate with professional playwriting teams in the developmental stages of new musicals. Such collaboration provides the students with the unique learning experience of seeing the craft of writing and composing a musical up close. It provides the professional writers with a laboratory environment where they can use the talents, skills, and resources that Millikin theatre students and faculty have to offer. Students have served as actors, production managers, stage managers, directors, dramaturgs, accompanists, coaches, and apprentice playwrights.

The program was conceived and piloted by Associate Professor Lori Bales with Musical Direction by Kevin Long in 2007 after Lori attended the National Alliance for Musical Theatre’s annual conference and new musicals festival 2004-2006. NAMT is a service organization whose mission is to support the development of new musical and Millikin has been a member since 2004.

The 2017 immersion is workshopping Unlock’d and Island Song by Sam Carner and Derek Gregor. Unlock’d was presented in a public showing on Monday, January 23rd in Kaeuper Hall on the Millikin University Campus.

The Silver and Gold Cabaret celebrating the ten year anniversary of the workshop was Sunday, January 22nd in Kaeuper Hall on the Millikin University Campus. The cabaret featured material from Carner and Gregor’s Island Song and student writers as well as honor the collected works of Michael Kooman and Chris Dimond. Kooman and Dimond are the first solo writing team to workshop a new musical with the workshop and received the first developmental production on the SOTAD mainstage production season. This schedule of events is an ambitious undertaking as the student and faculty artists will collaborate in the following ways: two full length musicals will be prepared and developed along with an additional hour and a half of music highlighting the work of Kooman and Dimond.
Dana Anderson (15’) returned to campus to continue her collaboration with Associate Professor Alex Miller as they embark upon the 6th year of Shakespeare Corrected at the Decatur Correctional Center. This year’s production of *As You Like It* will be presented April 19th - 23rd. Please contact Alex at avmiller@millikin.edu if interested in attending or supporting this transformative program.

Jana Henry Funderburk, Associate Professor of Theatre & Dance and Matthew Albrecht, Assistant Professor of Theatre & Dance took a group of 13 students to Walt Disney World as part of the January Immersion course entitled Designing Disney. The students worked for a week on campus to learn how Disney artists use design principles in achieving Magical Moments for guests. Once the group traveled to Florida, they were able to tour backstage areas of the parks, meet with designers and managers for the parades, shows, and events that regularly take place throughout the four parks of Walt Disney World. Students were able to spend significant amounts of time with the Disney professionals and make contacts in the themed entertainment industry.