

chiarts® THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

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From the Desk of Dr. Heather McCowen: Field trip to Ohio State University



"We left ChiArts at 5:30 a.m. on Friday morning in December. Our group of 15 students and 4 chaperones arrived in Columbus, OH at 1pm. First stop: the OSU School of Music. The school's Director, Prof. Richard Blatti (a native of Joliet), spoke to the students and shared his own story about being the son of a mechanic and how he achieved things through hard work, passion for his art and his studies. Ms. Catherine Hope-Cunningham, the school's Director of Admissions, answered questions from all the students about different majors and options for study at OSU.

After lunch and the Q&A, we split into groups for our campus tours. We walked around and saw the Student Union, the Student recreation center, the library and the art gallery. Some students went over to the Fashion Studies department to meet with that program's advisor. Other students were able to meet with the jazz and music business faculty, as well as sit in on a piano recital. In the evening, we

headed to the OSU Concert Hall for the Annual Music School Celebration Concert.

The take away from our first out-of-town college tour is that our students were engaged, attentive, polite and charming. Every one of them learned so much about the school, and represented ChiArts so well. We can all be extremely proud of them. Thank you to Mr. Smith, Ms. Rohrbach and Ms. Avant for being great chaperones, and to Mr. Ochoa and Principal Milsap for supporting this project".

A Master Class with Ramsey Lewis



In early December, jazz pianist, composer and radio personality Ramsey Lewis treated ChiArts piano students to a master class. Several students performed for Mr. Lewis and received comments on their technique while others listened and learned from these comments. At the end of the session, Mr. Lewis played for the students. It was an inspiring afternoon, and ChiArts is grateful to Ramsey Lewis for this contribution of his time and expertise to our program. Mr. Lewis is a member of the ChiArts

Board of Directors and the ChiArts Artistic Advisory Council.

Welcome to Bronzeville

In an effort to connect more with our neighbors, ChiArts invited Bronzeville leaders and representatives to visit the school on December 16. Guests participated in a brief reception and were treated to performances by ChiArts students. Before concluding with a tour of the facility, ChiArts Executive and Artistic Director Jose Ochoa and Principal Terri Milsap spoke about the school's history and structure, and facilitated a discussion with community members over potential ways the school could positively connect with the Bronzeville community in the future.

Conservatory News Brief



Theatre • Students attended the opening night of *Memphis* at the Cadillac Palace Theatre on November 22 and had an after-show Q&A session with part of the cast. Two of the cast members were also guest speakers in the Musical Theatre Professional Development class for the junior students. • Actor Christopher Lloyd (*Taxi*, *Back to the Future*) visited the school and spoke to junior Acting and Musical Theatre majors (photo) on December 12 as part of their Professional Development classes.

Dance • The Dance conservatory completed its first round of the Junior Choreography Workshop. Students Dominique Hargrove, Benjamin Marshall, and Kelsey Carpenter will present their work at the 2012 Curtain Call performance due to the artistic quality of their pieces. • Dance majors participated in two master classes this past November. They spent 3 hours with Hip Hop master teacher Trae Turner, as well as guest dancers from Rasta Thomas's Bad Boys of Dance.

Visual Arts • ChiArts visual arts majors created ornaments for the Christmas tree representing Illinois at the 2011 National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Washington (photo by Maliwan Diemer). The ceremony was co-sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation, and each state had one ornament featured on the White House Visitor Center's Christmas Tree.



Music • A new group of speakers visited the junior Professional Development class taught by faculty member Tina Laughlin. Guests included Christie Miller, Artistic Director for the Office of Cultural Events at Northeastern Illinois University; Anne MacQuarrie, Manager of Auditions and Personnel at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; and Christine Worthing, Director of Ensembles, Personnel and Community Engagement at Grant Park Symphony Orchestra.