

The Penguin

March 2010

New England Conservatory

Issue XXI

NEC Student Crowned Miss Boston!

by Albert Oppenheimer

I had the pleasure of sitting down for a moment between rehearsals with 1st year masters student in voice, Ashley Rizzo, who is the newly crowned Ms. Boston 2010. Ashley competed on Sunday February 21st against 17 other contestants in the annual pageant. Ashley is a lyric mezzo from San Francisco and studied at the Idyllwild Arts Academy before joining NEC as a freshman in the Fall of 2005. I've known Ashley for almost 5 years now (we were freshmen together), and I couldn't wait to discuss the experience with her.



Q: What inspired you to enter the Miss. Boston Pageant?

A: It's been an amazing journey. Last year I applied for the NEC

Tourjee Alumni Award, and in doing so met Ruth Harcovitz, class of '72, who is the Alumni Association President. Even though I didn't win the alumni award, Ruth took notice of my strong interview skills and encouraged me to apply to the pageant. She took me under her wing and coached me in preparation for the competition.

I initially decided to pursue the pageant due to mainly financial reasons; the pageant winner comes away with a decent scholarship prize. Actually, last year, the Miss. America organization

made available more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance to the over 12,000 young women who competed in

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The "Greening" of NEC

by Elizabeth Erenberg

If you needed to figure out what to do with 600 file folders, you might not consider the decision to be life changing. For Jennifer Kelemen, NEC Operations and Facilities Manager, this was a decision she was faced with one day when organizing her office. Little did anyone know, those 600 file folders would dramatically change NEC.

Kelemen's job as Building Operations Administrator includes many responsibilities. She is involved in a little bit of everything in the day-to-day operations of NEC, such as construction, facilities, security, dining services, and cleaning company services. In addition, Kelemen has always been a "green" person, encouraging and practicing environmentally friendly habits. Because of this, she could not simply throw those 600 file folders away.

"I don't think they knew that when they hired me," she laughs.

Fresh out of Wentworth Institute of Technology with a degree in architecture, her being hired was something that would shape the future of NEC significantly.

About a year ago, Michael Ryan, NEC Director of Operations and Facilities, was asked by NEC President Tony Woodcock to review, evaluate, and improve on the existing Sustainability Program. Once the construction project was completed, it was evident that NEC "exceeded our goal as it relates to sustainability," Ryan says. As a result, the National Grid has awarded NEC \$90,000 for reducing dependency on natural gas and electricity.

"NEC's administration and I feel strongly that it is our responsibility to protect the environment," Ryan says.

Soon after Kelemen was hired, a group of staff and faculty began meeting twice a month to discuss energy consumption, purchasing of recycled products, and the basic use and cost of energy. They call themselves the Sustainability team.

Charles Membrino, NEC Director of Information Technology Services, is a member.

"NEC has had electronic and paper recycling programs in place for a few years," he says. "But it is good to have all campus efforts discussed collaboratively by members of the Sustainability Team."

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NEC Celebrates 40 years of Jazz in New York City

by Steve Boudreau

The 2009-2010 school year marks the 40th anniversary of NEC's Jazz program. When Gunther Schuller became president in 1967, one of his visions for the school was to create a fully accredited jazz program. While other schools offered courses in jazz, Schuller believed jazz music to be as important as classical music, and by the fall of 1969 the first conservatory jazz program had been approved by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Many students at NEC were involved in the school's celebrations last term, such as the extremely memorable Wayne Shorter Quartet concert with the NEC Philharmonia conducted by Hugh Wolff, as well as the Jazz Summit concert, which involved many students, alumni and faculty. Similarly, there will be a series of concerts and panel discussions held in New York City this March. Below is a listing of some of the events. For more information on times, locations and pricing, keep checking NEC's Jazz40 website: <http://necmusic.edu/jazz40>

March 20, 2010 - Jeremy Udden at the Cornelia Street Café

March 20, 2010 - Panel Discussion: George Russell at Jazz at The Lincoln Center

March 21, 2010 - Andre Matos at the Cornelia Street Café

March 22, 2010 - The Public Opinion & The Noah Preminger Quartet at 55 Bar

March 23, 2010 - Darcy James Argue's Secret Society at The Jazz Standard

March 24, 2010 - NEC Faculty Band featuring George Garzone, John McNeil, Frank Carlberg, Cecil McBee and Billy Hart at The Jazz Standard

March 24, 2010 - Marty Ehrlich Quartet at The Jazz Standard

March 25, 2010 - Vocal Showcase featuring Dominique Eade at Joe's Pub

March 26, 2010 -John McNeil/Bill McHenry Quartet at the Cornelia Street Café

March 27, 2010 - Jazz Summit Concert at B.B.King's featuring John Medeski, Ran Blake, Cecil Taylor, Anton Fig, Bernie Worrell, Dominique Eade, Sarah Jarosz, Lake Street Dive and more.

The line-ups and schedules are constantly being updated with more information and more artists, so keep checking back if you plan to be spending some time in New York during your spring break.

Steve Boudreau is second year graduate jazz piano performance major.

Send comments and questions about this article to Steve.Budreau@necmusic.edu.



Albert "Paparazzi" *Photo by Jesse Weiner*



TROUBLE FINDING A PRACTICE ROOM??

Ten tricks to terminate this tedious torture

by Zachary A. Preucil

Tired of wearily walking the halls praying you'll find an open doorway? Can't practice in your apartment because the people next door would rather listen to their boombox than your Mendelssohn? Wishing NEC would just go ahead and purchase the parking garage across the street and turn it into a practice building?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you're not alone—between teachers' studios, the voice hallway, the harp rooms, the bass rooms, piano priority, brass priority, and the armada of auditioning students taking over the halls this month, the choice of open practice rooms is quite limited and can often be a daily frustration. However, this annoyance can be easily eliminated if one keeps a few things in mind:

1. Living in the Residence Hall? Check the basement rooms first!

Although the bowels of the NEC Residence Hall are known for their deplorable lack of music stands and odd taste in wall decoration, they are fairly dependable, as they are exclusive to residents of 33G. Not only that, but they are open all day and all night.

2. Something's gotta give

If the Residence Hall isn't an option, the usual alternatives are the second and third floors of the conservatory. While these are usually full, there's no reason to give up hope entirely: logic dictates that a room will open at *some* point.

"If you make a pass through the two floors enough times, you can see someone leaving," says Will Myers, an NEC-Tufts double degree student. "though sometimes it takes three or four passes."

3. The fabled "Room 102"

Believe it or not, room 102 on the first floor is a legitimate practice space. While its deceptive surroundings of offices and studios maybe camouflage its significance, the room is yours as long as it's not reserved.

4. The "Secret" Basement Rooms

Although most of the conservatory's basement is relegated to percussionists, there are three (albeit somewhat cramped) practice spaces that are never reserved—even on Saturdays!

Romanticism Displayed: NEC Phil Feb. 10. 2010

by Zaira Meneses

There is no question that Chopin was one of the great masters of Romanticism. His music transports us to an Eden of pleasures and delightful moments. The concert heard at New England Conservatory on February 10th performed by the NEC Philharmonia led by guest conductor Julian Kuerti, sandwiched one of Chopin's great romantic compositions, between two more Apollonian twenty century works.

The program had an Eastern European flavor. Mr. Kuerti opened the concert somewhat cautiously with *Symphonies of Winds Instruments* by Stravinsky. Here the NEC wind ensemble demonstrated their capacity developing successfully the many colors in this challenging work.

This was followed by the Chopin Piano Concerto no.1 in E minor Op11, Mr. Kuerti led the orchestra with tremendous professional expertise.

5. St. Botolph

Most of us associate the St. Botolph building with classes, but the building—and its classrooms—are open for practicing from 7 AM-12 Noon and 6 PM-10:30 PM Monday through Friday, and 7 AM-10:30 PM on Sunday.

6. Practice room sign-out

Take advantage of it! Signing up outside the room reservation office not only ensures a space for up to two hours at a time, but it helps you organize your schedule. On the other hand, don't assume a room is taken merely because it's been signed out... people have been known to sign out a room but end up not using it. Reserved rooms are only valid until fifteen minutes after the hour, so if you find a "reserved" room open at twenty past, take it!

7. Orchestra mornings

Chances are if your orchestra isn't in session, another one is. That means that about seventy people will be under the baton in Jordan Hall instead of idling in the upper floors of NEC. Be aware of when large groups of people are in rehearsal—it will make things a whole lot easier.

8. The benefits of the FAN

Since NEC has yet to discover that curious little thing called air conditioning, fans mounted on the wall are the only respite from the stuffy, overheated rooms. Therefore, practice rooms without a fan are generally available more often. Buying a small, portable fan cheap at CVS is your method of survival in these unwanted rooms—and the ticket to an open space.

9. The early bird gets the practice room...but so does the night owl

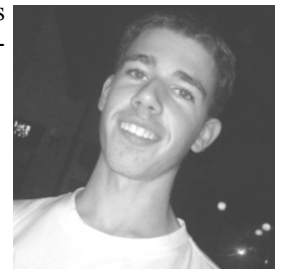
Do you wake up with the sunrise? Do you go to bed with the sunrise? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you're in luck! The hours of 7 AM to 9 AM are rich with empty rooms, as well as the hours of 10 PM to 12 AM. Taking advantage of these odd hours can eliminate a fruitless search around the halls of the conservatory in the mid-afternoon.

10. What to do on Saturdays

...it never hurts to take a day off.

Zachary Preucil is a
sophomore cello performance major.

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this article to Zachary.Preucil@necmusic.edu.



Mr. Lu Shen (winner of the NEC piano Department's Concerto Competition) captivated an audience of all ages including several children seated in the first row of Jordan Hall. Following carefully Mr. Shen's, expressions and enjoying his beautiful sound. Perhaps because of his youth I sometimes missed in Mr. Shen's performance the passionate touch that this ultra romantic music required. Mr. Kuerti closed the evening platonically with an elegant reading of *Music for Strings,percussion and Celesta* by Bela Bartok.

Zaira Meneses is a NEC guitar alumnus.

Send comments and questions about this
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CD Review: Fred Schneider — Just Fred

by Neal Markowski

In 1996, a legend of a man released a solo album that not too many folks were expecting that was sadly forgotten all too quickly. But, we aren't here to talk about "Allies" by Fred Frith! We're here to talk about Fred Schneider's "Just Fred".

The title itself is misleading. It really isn't "just Fred" as you would think. It's actually Fred with 3 different backing bands – one of which was the fabulous group Six Finger Satellite, another was Shad-ow-y Men on a Shad-ow-y Planet (known for the theme song to "Kids in the Hall"), and another called Deadly Cupcake, who features a Rick Sims on the guitar. Of course, we all know Rick Sims as being the guitarist for the Didjits as well! It probably comes as no surprise that it was also recorded by Steve Albini. Wait, what?! It was recorded by Steve Albini?! You mean to tell me that Fred "Rock Lobster" Schneider recorded an album with Steve "I have a headache like a pillow!" Albini?! Whoa! That's reason enough to spend \$4 on Amazon and buy a copy of this.



But what does it actually sound like?

Well, it's interesting because you would think that this whole combination of goodness would actually be like a peanut butter waffle scone - 3 fantastic things that just don't belong together ever. But it works! I can't really explain why, but it does. Interestingly enough, Fred didn't write any of the music. There are a few folks who put it all together, but Fred did write all of the lyrics, minus one song. That one song is "Coconut" by Harry Nilsson (that's that "you put the lime in the coconut and you drink it all up" song for those of you without the *Reservoir Dogs* soundtrack). As you can tell, this album just seems to get more and more random. But I don't know if it's the songwriting, the playing, Albini's "production", or just the fact that Fred Schneider actually made this, but it's genuinely enjoyable. The closest comparison I can make is to imagine Fred fronting any 90s-era Touch & Go band on some of the tracks. You got all the elements – rumbling bass, slashing and treble heavy guitars, and consistently pummeling drums, plus that guy from the B-52s yelling "YOU'LL KISS THE WHIP!" or "BULLDOZER ON THE MIRACLE MILE!". On the oth-

ers, it's more a just straight rock sound, with some poppy chords thrown in to give it that stadium anthem sound. And did I mention that it was recorded in only two weeks?! Crazy stuff here...

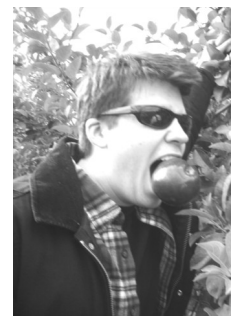
And we have to talk about Fred's vocal performance. Maybe it's the result of him being with this young group of whippersnappers, but Fred sound energized as all get up on these tracks. In an interesting choice, Albini actually has the vocals being very clear in the mix, which makes sense. However, if you've heard anything else he's recorded, you know he likes to bury those vocals six feet into the ground and then flood the hole with yard trimmings and lighter fluid. But since it is a Fred Schneider solo album, and because Fred just yells all the time anyways, the vocals sound great and his lyrics are the usual witty workings you could find on any B-52s recording.

So if you have \$5 to spend, don't spend it on dinner. Buy this instead! Sure, it might not be the best album you've ever

heard, but with it being Fred, you know it's going to be a party, and he makes it clear that you are most definitely invited.

OVERALL RATING – S'mores – meaning that lots of good things in a little package that's sweet enough to be enjoyed by most, and if you don't like it, well, it's only 36 minutes long.

KEY TRACKS – "Whip", "Radioactive Lady Eyeball", "Bulldozer".



Neal Markowski is a freshman composition major.
Send comments and questions about this article to
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Words spoken
sound broken
kind token
what a treat
got to eat
jump off your feet
drip of sweat
just met
place your bet
growing through
two plus two
do i know you?
wind sings
hope brings
bee stings
silent touch
no, not much
a sow's ear clutch
creativity
ability
individuality
complete concentration
MLA citation
one world, one nation
abounding statement
no replacement
make that payment
have you heard
flying bird
what's the word?
constant disaster
yes master
hallelujah pastor
passion rise
up in the skies

belief, first prize
color blind
cool state of mind
begin to unwind
electronics
antibiotics
narcotics
flowing shame
playing the game
where's your aim?
family unity
friendship community
lying immunity
smiles
trials
styles

can you tell
very well
that we all fell
but rise we will
you know the drill
no reason to kill
neutral. one. a mural.



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performance major.
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Colleen Palmer, M.M. '03 in Vocal Performance and current Director of the Student Activities, is also a member of the Sustainability Team. She says that the effort to start a sustainability program has been in the works ever since back when she was a student.

"It really took collaborating with Building Operations to make it happen," Palmer says. "We're just lucky to have Jennifer, who is really interested. She has made it a priority."

Since the beginning of this school year, the Sustainability team has met periodically, and the progress has been substantial in "greening" the campus in terms of paper products, technology, and food/beverage products.

With the use of stapleslink.com, an online version of the Staples office supply store, there is an online log of inventory bought by NEC, which allows orders to be combined between departments. The result is fewer orders being made, money being saved, fewer duplicate orders, and the sharing of office supplies (often things such as 600 file folders).

Charles Membrino, NEC Director of Information Technology Services, is also working to help make technology more environmental.

"In the Computer Lab, students are asked to limit personal (non-school related) printing to 15 pages," Membrino says. "Students printing NEC related assignments may do so by signing our print log (which we keep for tracking and budgeting purposes, only)."

With the photocopier in St. Botolph, students are able to scan documents for free as an alternative to photocopying and printing.

In addition, all new computers at NEC are set up to adhere to the recommendations of Energy Star, a government-funded energy program. The monitors on computers (called Cathode Ray Tube monitors) are being replaced with Liquid Crystal Displays, which by producing less heat, save on room energy needs. As for the old computers, CD's, DVD's, and floppy drives, they are recycled by being dismantled and/or donated to non-profit organizations.

According to Palmer, in years past the former Director of Dining Services was once taking recycling products back to her house in order to make sure they were not mixed with trash when they were picked up. Since then, things have thankfully improved. The AMPM Cleaning company sorts makes sure that recycling and trash get to their respective destinations by sorting through bins at the end of the day and taking them away.

In addition to garbage services, the Sustainability Team is researching cleaning chemicals used daily, and trying to transition to more environmentally safe products.

In the residence hall Bistro 33, the trash and recycling bins are always full, showing signs of the program's success.

"All of NEC seems really enthused about this," Kelemen says. "There has been no push back. They're letting us do our thing. I am excited about how much NEC actually supports us. Everyone seems to want to do more."

The Sustainability Team is now looking for student participation and input from the community, such as the meanings of "green" and sustainability" and suggestions on how to expand the efforts.

"Even if you don't have time in your schedule," Kelemen says. "We still really want your input."

To combine administrative and student efforts, there will soon be a call for student participation. For more information on the Sustainability Team at NEC and NEC's Sustainability efforts, email sustainability@necmusic.edu.

The Green Team meeting is scheduled for March 16th at 5:30pm (location TBD)



Elizabeth Erenberg is a first year graduate flute performance major. Send comments and questions about this article to Elizabeth.Erenberg@necmusic.edu.

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Miss Boston *Continued from page 1*

the state and local competitions. In addition to that, I was totally convinced when I realized how philanthropically based the competition is- each contestant has to prepare a platform about a cause that you deeply care about. My platform is to “increase local government funding to early education programs for the music and the arts.” This is particularly important in Boston; the past few years have seen a 46% cut from public arts programs. Over the next year, my goal is to help raise money for the students of Boston so that they can have the opportunity to be exposed to and receive training in the music and the arts.

Q: Do you think people will give to your cause?

A: If it’s for a generally good cause, people are willing to donate money and time. What’s missing is the person to ask for it. That’s my job. Also, the resources that the program provides me make my platform very possible. I’m thrilled to represent the city

Q: Could you describe the experience for me?

A: It was COMPLETELY not what I was expecting. I heard so many horror stories about pageants and competitions like this, and it wasn’t like that at all. I was blown away by the other competitors. They were all genuine, thoughtful, and articulate women from around the city. The one thing they all had in common was the dream to make a difference.

Q: The feminist in me just has to ask this question. Why do the Miss America pageants include a swimsuit portion if she will mainly do appearances in suits? Doesn't this objectify women?

A: Well, though it is somewhat silly to walk a runway in a swimsuit and heels in the middle of winter in Boston, there are many cultures around the world where this wouldn't be permitted, and being able to do so liberates women, not objectifies them. The contestants work incredibly hard to be physically fit and healthy, and there is nothing wrong with showcasing that. It's also beneficial from a judging standpoint, because they need a representative who presents herself in a graceful, classy, dignified way, and if a woman can do that under those circumstances, things like press conferences are a piece of cake.

Q: Did your experiences at NEC impact you at all in the competition?

A: The training I’ve received at NEC was invaluable! 35% of the competition was based on ‘talent’. Thanks to NEC, I did win the top talent award which definitely contributed to winning the overall competition. The talent competition was mostly made up of the competitors singing pop or theatrical numbers. There were some dancers and one classical pianist. I sang Habanera from Bizet's Carmen- which, stylistically, definitely stood out from the crowd.

Q: What’s next?

A: Next? I have meetings with local government officials to work on the specific goals to accomplish my platform. I have appearances starting this week- my first appearance is speaking at Suffolk University. I’ll also have to do some parades and other public appearances. I am definitely excited to work with the Children’s Miracle Network which gives me the opportunity to make lots of hospital visits and to mentor children around Boston.

Ashley will be competing in Miss. Massachusetts on June 25th! If she wins, we can all watch her live from Las Vegas in next year’s Miss. America Pageant. I’m excited. Are you? For info check out:

<http://www.missboston.org>

<http://www.missamerica.org>



Albert Oppenheimer is a first year graduate composition major. Send comments and questions about this article to Albert.Oppenheimer@necmusic.edu.

ENJOY SPRING BREAK!

**BREATHE.
RELAX.
ENJOY!**

@ theSAC: March

Weekly Thursday Nights Free Yoga @ 6:30pm, SBG14

Weekly Morning Coffee Mondays @ 8:30am, theSAC

Weekly Wednesdays Alexander Tchnq@ 7PM, G13

Thursday 3/11 Movie Night

A pick from the oscars @ 9PM, Lounge

Join us for the fun!

Questions?
stop JH147 or e-mail
thesac@necmusic.edu



Want to see your name here?



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Meetings are every Wednesday at 6pm in NEC's Bistro 33.

with a special thanks to Scott Feinberg at FedEx Office