SPIRITUALS PROJECT JOINS DU

Award-Winning Organization Now Part of the Lamont School of Music

In July, the Spirituals Project became an official university program within the Lamont School of Music.

Previously an independent non-profit founded by DU faculty member Art Jones, the Spirituals Project’s mission is the preservation and revitalization of the music and social justice teachings of the sacred songs called “spirituals,” music created and first sung by enslaved African Americans.

Narrated choral performances by a multi-ethnic community spirituals choir as well as curriculum about the cultural, psychological and historical impact of African American music will become formal programs at the music school.

“I am very excited that the Spirituals Project ensemble will become a part of Lamont,” said Nancy Cochran, director of the Lamont School of Music. “A priority at Lamont has been to expand our students’ horizons by enhancing the global and culturally-rich curriculum for students and to provide similar resources and opportunities for the greater Denver community.”

M. Roger Holland, II, was recently selected as director of the Spirituals Project and also joins the Lamont faculty. Holland is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York City where he received a master of divinity degree and served as Artist-in-Residence and director of the seminary Gospel Choir for more than 13 years.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumnus Brings Hundreds of Elementary Students to DU for College Prep

Even though Julio Alas graduated several years ago, you can still find him on the DU campus regularly. As an Early Childhood Education (ECE) and English Language Acquisition (ELA) teacher for the Denver Public Schools system, he partners with DU to bring hundreds of local elementary school students to campus annually for DU Day Action events.

Alas (BA ’08, psychology and Spanish; MA ’11, curriculum and instruction) helps would-be first-generation students consider college as a viable post-high school option. He accompanies local school children and their parents to DU for campus tours, bilingual meetings with college students and faculty, and sessions to learn about college access and financial aid.

“We always speak to students about this mystical place called ‘college’ and what happens there, but for many of the students, this concept is too abstract,” said Alas, who in 2013 approached DU’s Center for Multicultural Excellence, DU Service and Change (DUSC) and the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning to create the on-campus experience for elementary students and their families.

The fourth annual spring event—called “College? For Certain!”—includes hundreds of students from Johnson, Trevista and Stein elementary schools. Read more...

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Professor Advocates for Social Justice In and Out of Classroom

Social movements in the United States are interwoven throughout our nation’s history, shaping our ideals, culture and beliefs. Lindsey Feitz, assistant teaching professor in the gender and women’s studies program, seeks to address the effects of social change not only on segments of society but on society as a whole.

As a PhD student of American Studies at the University of Kansas, Feitz studied the intersection of identity and American culture. Her dissertation on the globalization of Avon Cosmetics, tracing Avon’s evolution from a U.S. company to a transnational powerhouse, propelled her work in the areas of gender, class, race and sexuality.

“When I began my research, I thought I would be writing a cultural history of the gendered messages and prescriptive beauty advice Avon ladies delivered around the world,” she said. “I soon realized that Avon’s archival collection provides the opportunity to examine issues that are larger, and in many ways more significant, than its global expansion.”

Feitz’s research on Avon cosmetics stems in part from her interest in consumer culture, and how products are marketed towards an intended audience, thus influencing perceptions about the self and society as a whole. Read More...

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Student Advisory Council President Leads in Life and Academia
For many undergraduate students, the first year is filled with all kinds of surprises, from meeting a new roommate to navigating the campus. But for Peter Leach, second-year psychology major, each surprise proved to be a hidden opportunity.

Having invested time, energy and resources into pouring over 13 college websites, touring campuses and speaking with students, the Coppell, Texas native applied on a whim to the University of Denver.

“Despite thinking my list of colleges was complete at thirteen, I ultimately ‘threw in’ a university which I knew almost nothing about,” said Leach, who was pleasantly surprised to find the location, size and sports programs at DU were exactly what he was looking for. “All in all, the University of Denver fit nearly all the criteria that a prospective college student could wish for.”

Once on campus, Leach began looking for ways to get involved.

“Being a leader has always been a passion of mine, whether it’s leading a group project, organizing a ski trip with friends or leading a student organization,” he said. So, Leach took the next step by running for AHSS Student Advisory Council president as a first-year student. He couldn’t have been more surprised when he won. Read More...

**FEATURED EVENTS**

**OPEN AIR CONCERT: Aug 14 and 28, 7:00 p.m. — Sixth Annual Carillon Summer Recital Series**

Join us for a carillon concert at the Williams Carillon at the Ritchie Center, featuring Carillonneur Ray McLellan, Michigan State University (Aug 14), and Carlo Van Ulft, Springfield, IL (Aug 28). The best listening place to enjoy the free concert is in the courtyard at the south end of the Ritchie Center, which is located on the SW corner of Buchtel Blvd. and University Blvd. A carillon is a set of chromatically tuned stationary bells, usually hung in a tower and played from a keyboard. For updates, call the Lamont Concert Line weekly recorded message at (303) 871-6412.