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WELCOME



The 2023 Holiday Festival; photo by Glenn Asakawa.
The 2024 Holiday Festival is in Macky Auditorium, Dec. 6-8.

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CU ★ PRESENTS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

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Musical Theatre: *Promotional art for
Heathers, The Musical*

The University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado's flagship university, honors and recognizes the many contributions of Indigenous peoples in our state. CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts.

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SPOTLIGHT



Advocacy Through Artistry

By Henry Michaels

In 2021, soprano Renée Fleming— one of those rare artists who needs absolutely no introduction—released the album *Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene*. Featuring both Romantic era works and new compositions by Nico Muhly, Caroline Shaw and Kevin Puts, *Voice of Nature* would go on to win Fleming her fifth Grammy Award in 2023.

And in January of 2025, Fleming will bring a concert inspired by this album to Macky Auditorium. Fleming, who has frequently lent her voice to causes in which she believes, ventures further into the realm of advocacy through artistry with this album and ensuing concert project. *Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene* focuses on the environment and climate change. (The Anthropocene is a name proposed by scientists for our current geological epoch, one whose beginning is marked by the first instances of significant human impact on the planet.)

“The music on the album begins in a time almost two centuries ago when people had a profound connection to the beauty of nature,” said Fleming of *Voice of Nature*. “Now we have reached a moment when we see all too clearly the effects of our own activity and the fragility of our environment.”

This is an eclectic concert, featuring music by composers from Nico Muhly and Kevin Puts to George Frideric Handel and Giacomo Puccini—even Richard Rodgers and Björk! The concert will also feature a film specially created for this project by the National Geographic Society which further highlights the beauty and fragility of our planet, its climate and the creatures we share it with.

While there is certainly a tone of somberness in the serious message that underlies this concert, the music and film also serve to deliver a substantial dose of hope. The words

of American poet Dorianne Laux’s *Evening*—set to music by Kevin Puts— illustrate well this juxtaposition of apprehension and hope:

“We know the land / is disappearing beneath / the sea, islands swallowed / like prehistoric fish. / We know we are doomed, / done for, damned, and still / the light reaches us, falls / on our shoulders even now, / even here where the moon is / hidden from us, even though / the stars are so far away.”

Renée Fleming performs on the Artist Series at Macky Auditorium, on Jan. 31, 2025.

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Little Women

By Louisa May Alcott
Adapted and Directed
by Jessica Robblee



Dec. 5 - 29

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UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

CU ★ PRESENTS

ARTIST SERIES



Pablo Sáinz-Villegas
Guitar Masterworks
Nov. 9, 2024



**Boston Brass +
Brass All-Stars Big Band**
Christmas Bells
are Swingin'
Dec. 14, 2024



Renée Fleming
Voice of Nature
Jan. 31, 2025



Kodo
One Earth Tour 2025:
Warabe
Feb. 15, 2025

COLLEGE OF MUSIC



Heathers: The Musical
Book, Music and Lyrics
by Laurence O'Keefe and
Kevin Murphy
Nov. 14-17, 2024



Holiday Festival 2024
Boulder's beloved
holiday tradition
Dec. 6-8, 2024



The Pirates of Penzance
By Gilbert and Sullivan
March 14-16, 2025



Big Fish
By John August and
Andrew Lippa
April 24-27, 2025

TAKÁCS QUARTET



Takács Quartet
Jan. 12 and 13, 2025
March 9 and 10, 2025
April 13 and 14, 2025
*All performances stream for one
week after Monday concert.*



**MORE INFO
AND FULL
EVENT LISTING**



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- From our box office at the University Club
- By phone at 303-492-8008

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VISITOR INFO

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Latecomers are seated at the discretion of the house manager. You may be seated in a seat other than your ticketed seat; you can move to your ticketed seat during intermission.

Late seating is unavailable in the:

- Music Theatre (Imig Music Building)
- Loft Theatre (University Theatre Building)

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Holiday Festival 2024
Dec. 6-8

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UPCOMING THEATRE & DANCE EVENTS



Antigone

By Jean Anouilh, translated by Jeremy Sams
Nov. 8-17, 2024 | Roe Green Theatre



FRESH: Fall 2024

A CU dance concert
Dec. 6 and 7, 2024 | Irely Theatre



Catapult

A BFA dance concert
Feb. 7-9, 2025 | Irely Theatre



John Proctor is the Villain

By Kimberly Bellflower
Feb. 21-March 2, 2025 | Loft Theatre



Open Space

Curated by CU Dance Connection
March 7-9, 2025 | Irely Theatre

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SPOTLIGHT



Meet Willem Rohwer— 2024 Sher Distinguished Musician Scholarship Recipient

By Kathryn Bistodeau

We're pleased to announce freshman Willem Rohwer as our 2024 Sher Distinguished Musician Scholarship recipient!

Rohwer comes to the College of Music from Edwards, Colorado, to pursue an undergraduate degree in double bass performance studying with Associate Professor of Double Bass Susan Cahill. "She's absolutely wonderful," Rohwer says. "I had the opportunity to take a couple lessons with her over the summer and her approach to teaching is through a fresh lens."

At CU Boulder, Rohwer hopes to explore different musical ensembles, genres and styles to find his own niche. "Developing my own musical opinions and character are really something that I want to find here," he says.

Rohwer first learned about the scholarship through an email inviting him to an additional audition. He had just a few weeks to prepare and utilized an unusual tactic: "I had figured out that one of the most helpful things for me was to play in different locations throughout my house and throughout my town instead of just in my room," he says.

"You can hear different things. I practiced in my living room and then I practiced in a closet and then I practiced outside."

The traveling practice paid off and Rohwer was offered the four-year, full-ride scholarship funded by John and Anna Sie.

"You couldn't wipe the smile off my face for a week, I was really happy to hear that I would be able to go here and that I was so wanted."

Rohwer is also part of the Music Buffs Living Learning Community—a program that brings together music loving students to collaborate and create. "It's so exciting to be a part of this community because everyone I meet is eager to do exactly what I want to do, which is jam out with people my age who have different ideas about music," he says.

Additionally, Rohwer wants to develop another passion of his: Space.

"I've always been fascinated with astrophysics and space," he says.

"I think music and astrophysics relate because they both have to do with exploring—with music, there's such an infinite space ahead of you where you can explore how everything sounds."

He adds, "When you're playing music, it brings you to a space that's so separate from time, stress or any of the other happenings of daily life. The same feeling that I get in that musical space is what I experience when I think about exploring deep space because it's so far out and separate from everything else ... and always brand new."

Rohwer joins these current Sher Distinguished Musician Scholarship recipients:

2023: Nate Bonin (horn) and Danny Kaminski (jazz bass);
2022: Jude Dow-Hygelund (piano) and Cian Kreuger (jazz sax); and
2021: Anna Kallinikos (trumpet) and Raven Dow-Hygelund (classical guitar).

Our gratitude to the 2024 Sher Distinguished Musician Scholarship selection committee comprising faculty members Gary Lewis, Matthew Roeder and Elizabeth Swanson. "I'm excited that we've added another very talented musician as part of our incoming class of first-year Music Buffs!" says Roeder.

CU ★ PRESENTS | ARTIST SERIES



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pablo Sáinz-Villegas
Nov. 9

**Boston Brass +
Brass All-Stars
Big Band**
Dec. 14

Renée Fleming
Jan. 31

Kodo
Feb. 15

**Sweet Honey
in the Rock**
Feb. 28

**Martha Graham
Dance Company**
April 26

*All performances take place at 7:30 p.m.
in Macky Auditorium.*

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CU ★ PRESENTS | TAKÁCS QUARTET



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April 13 and 14

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SPOTLIGHT



Kodo puts a visceral, visual spin on taiko drumming for 40th Anniversary tour

By Adam Goldstein

The members of the Kodo Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble are just as apt to impress seasoned jazz drummers as they are musical novices.

Take Max Roach, for example, the legendary jazz percussionist and composer who redefined the sound and dynamic of the American art form in the 1950s. Before he passed in 2007, Roach spoke to the Village Voice about Kodo, an ensemble that specializes in Japanese drumming styles, compositions and performance. Roach saw that contemporary quality and marveled at the group's sheer presence onstage. "The technique they use to play percussion instruments is totally different from anything I've ever

seen," Roach told the Village Voice in the 1990s. "They deal with 'visual sound' more than anyone I've ever known."

It would be a misnomer to attach the word "traditional" to the group's approach to Japanese taiko percussion; while they draw on the deep cultural roots of their country in terms of instrumentation and method, they are thoroughly modern in terms of their repertoire and their adaptation of the art form.

The visual component is impossible to ignore during a performance by Kodo. They specialize in taiko, a Japanese word that can be translated roughly

as both "heartbeat" and "children of the drum." The troupe members take to the stage clad in headbands and loincloths; their onstage approach includes gymnastic leaps and acrobatic flourishes; the drums themselves—rendered of wood and animal hide—are massive, and serve as onstage personas of their own.

But the very music itself also seems to offer a visual component, a feature that has made the Kodo Performing Arts Ensemble a global lure since its formal launch at the Berliner Festspiele in 1981. The Kodo troupe produces a percussive, tactile brand of sound, one that audience members can see in the drums' visual vibrations and one they can feel in the vibrations that will reach the back of the balcony at Macky Auditorium when the group visits the CU Boulder campus on Feb. 15.

For more than 40 years, Kodo has been delivering this impressive dynamic to audiences across the globe from their home base on the rural island of Sado in Japan. Their "One Earth Tour" formally began in 1984 and, for their anniversary celebration, the group has focused on their driving artistic mission statement, one that's just as much about community as it is about sound.

"The sound of our taiko will echo out from Sado Island to the world, and from the world to Sado Island," Kodo Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble Leader Yuichiro Funabashi notes on the group's website. "We will continue our One Earth Tour; our mission (is) to remind people of the common bonds we all share. We will strive to connect people through the resonant sound of taiko, creating moments and spaces brimming with joy and smiling faces."

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PERSONNEL

Rick DeJonge, conductor
Jose Sibaja, trumpet *
Joey Tartell, trumpet
Ryan Gardner, trumpet #
Jeff Conner, trumpet *
Chris Castellanos, horn *
Beth Lano, horn
John McGuire, horn
Domingo Pagliuca, trombone *
Salvador Saez, trombone
Sterling Tanner, bass trombone #
William Russell, tuba *
Dan Hostetler, drum set
David Cutler, piano
Doug Walter, auxiliary percussion #

* indicates Boston Brass quintet group member

indicates CU Boulder College of Music
faculty member

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ABOUT BOSTON BRASS

Since 1986 **Boston Brass** has set out to establish a one-of-a-kind musical experience, featuring colorful classical arrangements, burning jazz standards and the best of original brass repertoire. Boston Brass treats audiences to a unique brand of musical entertainment that bridges the ocean of classical formality to delight regular concertgoers and newcomers alike with great music and boisterous fun. The quintet has played to audiences in all 50 U.S. states, and more than 30 countries. Though the band regularly concertizes as a quintet, Boston Brass also performs with orchestras, concert and marching bands, organists, and

ARTIST SERIES

Boston Brass + Brass All-Stars Big Band

Christmas Bells are Swingin’

Dec. 14 2024

Macky Auditorium

PROGRAM

* Indicates Boston Brass quintet on its own

Joy to the World

arr. Stan Kenton

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

arr. Ralph Carmichael

We Three Kings of Orient Are

arr. Ralph Carmichael

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Ralph Carmichael

*The Nutcracker Dances

Peter Tchaikovsky

arr. J.D.Shaw

1. Chinese Dance
2. Arabian Dance
3. Russian Dance

(program continues on next page)

This evening’s performance is generously sponsored by



***Jingle Bells Forever Robert W. Smith**

arr. J.D. Shaw

The Grinch

arr. William Russell

Ho, Ho, Ho

arr. Rick DeJonge

The Twelve Days of Christmas

arr. Ralph Carmichael

Intermission

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson

arr. J.D. Shaw

***Frosty the Snowman**

Jack Rollins

arr. J.D. Shaw

***Silent Night**

arr. Chris Castellanos

Good King Wenceslas

arr. Ralph Carmichael

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Ralph Carmichael

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. Ralph Carmichael

Faithful

David Cutler

***White Christmas**

Irving Berlin

arr. J.D. Shaw

Greensleeves

arr. J.D. Shaw

jazz bands, and regularly collaborates with composers to create new works for the brass canon.

Music education is at the core of Boston Brass's identity and the quintet conducts sessions around the world in the form of masterclasses, residencies and collaborations, everywhere from your local band rooms to major music conservatories. The quintet has longstanding relationships, most notably with Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Singapore and North Dakota State University's Challey School of Music, both schools having named Boston Brass "Visiting Ensemble in Residence" starting in 2024. In conjunction with the Yamaha Corporation, the quintet engaged in a 2018 tour of major Chinese music conservatories, and in 2021 the members of Boston Brass were appointed to the International Artist Advisory Council to the College of Music at Mahidol University in Thailand. The Boston Brass have been featured as educators and performers at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, American Band College, Western International Band Clinic, and at innumerable state music education conferences. After a long hiatus, 2022 finally saw the return of the Boston Brass Summer Intensive in its new home at NDSU's Challey School of Music. In 2024, Boston Brass was inducted into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association as associate members for the ensemble's contributions to music education.

Unique collaborations are central to the Boston Brass mission, and in 2025, Boston Brass and Imani Winds will team up for their first collaboration in over a decade to present a new composition by the great Arturo Sandoval. Recently released in 2023 is the album *Joe's Tango*, which introduces our world premiere of Jorge Machain's *Five Cities Concerto*

alongside selections by trombonist Joe Alessi and the UNLV Wind Orchestra. Boston Brass continues to give performances of Grammy winning composer Gordon Goodwin's *Perplexing Times* which had its world premiere in 2022. Featuring the quintet with wind ensemble and jazz rhythm section, *Perplexing Times* brims with Goodwin's trademark tongue in cheek compositional style.

The quintet's newest release *Blues for Sam* (2022) features a mix of classical and jazz arrangements alongside old Boston Brass favorites, and is dedicated to the late Sam Pilafian who can also be heard on the albums *Simple Gifts* (2018), *Reminiscing* (2016) and *Rewired* (2015). *Latin Nights* (2008) features a collection of some of the greatest classical and jazz works by Latin composers and features the legendary drummer Steve Gadd and the beautiful voice of Talita Real, plus percussion and guitar. Other albums include *Ya Gotta Try*, featuring music from Horace Silver, Chick Corea and Dizzy Gillespie, produced by legendary jazz recording genius Rudy van Gelder, and *Within Earshot*, featuring classical works by Shostakovich, Ginastera, Dvořák, Liszt and others. Boston Brass has two holiday recordings, *Christmas Bells are Swingin'* and *The Stan Kenton Christmas Carols*, featuring the Boston Brass All-Stars Big Band playing the phenomenal charts made popular by the Stan Kenton Orchestra. Boston Brass tours a vibrant holiday show each year featuring many of the Stan Kenton classics and sporting a full big band stocked with powerhouse guests, making this program a perennial audience favorite.

In 2020, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the massive cancellations of live concerts, Boston Brass started several projects with an aim to keep creative momentum while still serving the music education community. This started with the

Summer Winds Seminar, an online course for high school and college students featuring dozens of masterclasses by artists from all corners of the music world. Then the "Happy Hour" and "Back to School" interview series showcased greats of the brass and band world in an informal, conversational setting, including interviews with legendary guests like Doc Severinsen and Arturo Sandoval. Then the Boston Brass "Flex" project, a packet of recordings and flexible instrumentation arrangements, was designed to allow students to play along and learn chamber music from home or from a school setting where downsized instruction was required. And in October 2020, Boston Brass presented a nationally live-streamed concert from the Ramsdell Theater in Manistee, Michigan in the hopes of renewing the joy of live arts during the depths of the pandemic.

2011 marked the 25th Anniversary of Boston Brass and was celebrated with the 25 Fanfares Project, wherein 25 fanfares were premiered by composers from all over the country. Boston Brass also premiered a new major commission by noted wind ensemble composer Brian Balmages and new arrangements by former member and tuba player Sam Pilafian. Boston Brass was honored to collaborate in the 2010/2011 season with the fabulous Imani Winds in a program entitled "Sketches of Spain," featuring the music of Miles Davis and Gil Evans, and in the 2012/2013 season the quintet began touring their "Notes from the Balcony" program with the Enso String Quartet featuring a program of music inspired by *Romeo and Juliet*.

Boston Brass will continue its mission to empower and advocate for music educators everywhere, and to push the boundaries of instrumental brass performance with innovative concerts, collaborations, and new compositions. To our supporters at Yamaha

and to our friends around the world, thank you for making what we do possible!

José Sibaja brings an incredible level of artistry, humor and personality to Boston Brass. Sibaja has held positions in the Miami Symphony, the Sinfonietta de Caracas and the Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela, and has performed as soloist with the Springfield Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela, and Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional de Costa Rica. He toured the world in Ricky Martin's band for eight years and can be heard in countless recordings with artists such as Celia Cruz, Gloria Estefan, and Alejandro Sanz, and has performed on Late Night with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Saturday Night Live, and the Grammys. Sibaja is currently professor of trumpet at the Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Jeff Conner is the last remaining original member of Boston Brass. He founded the group with fellow Boston musicians while studying at Boston University and has engineered the meteoric rise of the ensemble in the world of popular chamber music. Conner received his master's degree in music from Boston University and his bachelor's degree in music from Boston Conservatory. He has presented his entrepreneurial clinic "The Portfolio Musician" around the world, and is the author of *The Portfolio Musician: Case Studies in Success*, co-authored with Grammy-nominated musician John Laverty.

Chris Castellanos hails from Las Vegas where he studied at UNLV and was formerly a member of the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Castellanos has shared the stage with the Utah Symphony, Miami Ballet, Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass, Nevada Chamber Orchestra, Las Vegas Jazz Connection and the TAD Wind Symphony

of Japan. In Vegas, Castellanos has played more than 1,700 performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom – The Las Vegas Spectacular* and backed artists like Frank Sinatra Jr., Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Peter Cetera, Peabo Bryson, Kenny G, Robert Goulet, Olivia Newton-John, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Michel Legrand, Mannheim Steamroller, Yes, Josh Groban, Michael Bublé, Charlotte Church, Ricky Martin, David Foster and Andrea Bocelli.

Domingo Pagliuca is a Latin Grammy Award-winning trombonist who was born in Venezuela and graduated with honors from the University of Miami with bachelor's and master's degrees in Music. His versatility as an instrumentalist in different musical genres has led him to be one of the most in-demand musicians in Venezuela and Latin America for recording sessions and musical productions in the commercial field. Currently, Pagliuca serves as principal trombone of both the Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra and the Florida Grand Opera Orchestra.

William Russell is the newest member of Boston Brass, joining in 2017. Russell was a co-founder of the Chicago-based quintet Alliance Brass and is an alumnus of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Russell has performed across the United States in venues from the Corn Palace to Carnegie Hall, and he has toured Europe with both the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and he can be heard on the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Grammy-winning 2008 recording of Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony. At home in Chicago, Russell teaches tuba and euphonium at Northeastern Illinois University.

Boston Brass is Visiting Ensemble in Residence at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory at the National University of Singapore and the Challey School of Music at North Dakota State University.

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BOULDER OPERA

PRESENTS



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 Sunday, December 15th 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM
 at The Dairy Arts Center



Friday, February 7th, 2025 at 7:00 PM
 Saturday, February 8th, 2025 at 7:00 PM
 Sunday, February 9th, 2025 at 3:00 PM
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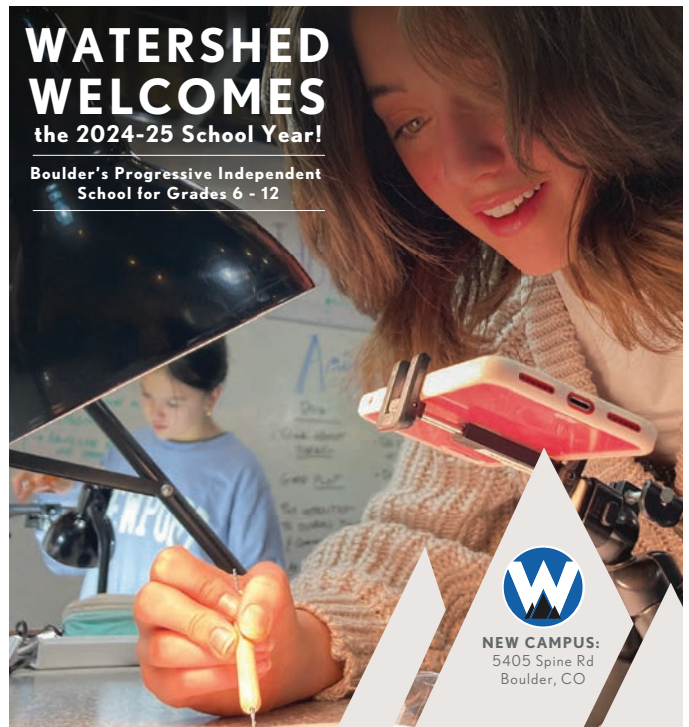
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ALTERNATIVE KEYBOARD

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GREATER REACH

By Kathryn Bistodeau

When Abigail Terrill (MM '24) learned about alternative piano keyboards, it seemed she'd found an obvious solution to a complicated problem. Terrill spent the last year of her master's experience researching narrower keyboards to accommodate pianists with smaller hands, and how quickly pianists can transition to and from them.

"The length of alternative keyboards is the same as standard keyboards, only the width of each key is very slightly smaller," Terrill says. The CU Boulder College of Music has had such a keyboard on loan from the DS Standard Foundation since April 2023, featuring a six-inch octave instead of the standard six-and-a-half-inch octave.

"The reason I got interested was because I have tendonitis and I noticed a bunch of my female pianist friends were also getting tendonitis. I've had friends who have had to quit because they got some kind of severe playing-related injury," Terrill says.

Alternatively sized keyboards can help pianists avoid injuries sustained from over-reaching and enable individuals with smaller hands to play some repertoire that is physically impossible for them to perform on standard-size pianos.

"Keyboards are made to a standard size and the human hand is not a standard size,"

says Jennifer Hayghe, associate professor of piano and chair of the Roser Piano + Keyboard Program at the College of Music. "In my 25 years as a professor, I have seen the number of students with injuries rise exponentially. I spend a lot of my time working with students trying to reduce their stress and tension and work through the injuries they've accrued. I do believe that if we had smaller keyboards as a standard thing, that would not be an issue."

The piece loaned to the College of Music is a piano action—that is, the keyboard and the mechanism that causes hammers to strike the strings when keys are pressed. This action can technically fit onto any piano, though some fittings are more difficult than others. Mark Mikkelson and Phil Taylor, both piano technicians at the College of Music, say they put in 50 to 60 hours of work fitting the alternative keyboard into a Steinway piano.

"The problem in making these keyboards for Steinway instruments is that Steinways are entirely handmade, which means they're not all exactly the same," Hayghe explains. "So when alternative keyboards are made as close as possible to a 'standard' Steinway size, all these little adjustments are necessary. It took a long time and a lot of adjusting to get that keyboard used to that piano."

Terrill's thesis project involved 15 pianists playing a musical excerpt on a standard piano, and then on a narrow keyboard. She measured their errors when initially playing on the alternative keyboard and after 10 minutes of practice.

"We found that everyone by the end—transitioning from the standard size to the second try on the narrow keyboard—had fewer errors than on the first try," Terrill says. "Most of them said 'I wish I could practice more on it.'"

Since graduating this spring, Terrill has been teaching piano lessons—another instance when narrow keyboards would be helpful. "Most instruments have smaller versions for when you're learning as a kid, but not the piano," she notes.

"I really see this as an equality issue. I'm looking for movement from people. I want to push for more research and for people to have conversations about it."

Photo: Abigail Terrill (MM '24) and duo partner James Morris (DMA '25) rehearse his first piano duo composition that premiered last year. Terrill is playing an alternatively sized keyboard on loan at the CU Boulder College of Music.

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