

Places

December 2009 – January 2010

A preview of Performing Arts at
Johnson County Community College
www.jccc.edu/TheSeries

**New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra
and Vocalists**
A Viennese Christmas

Cantus, *All is Calm*

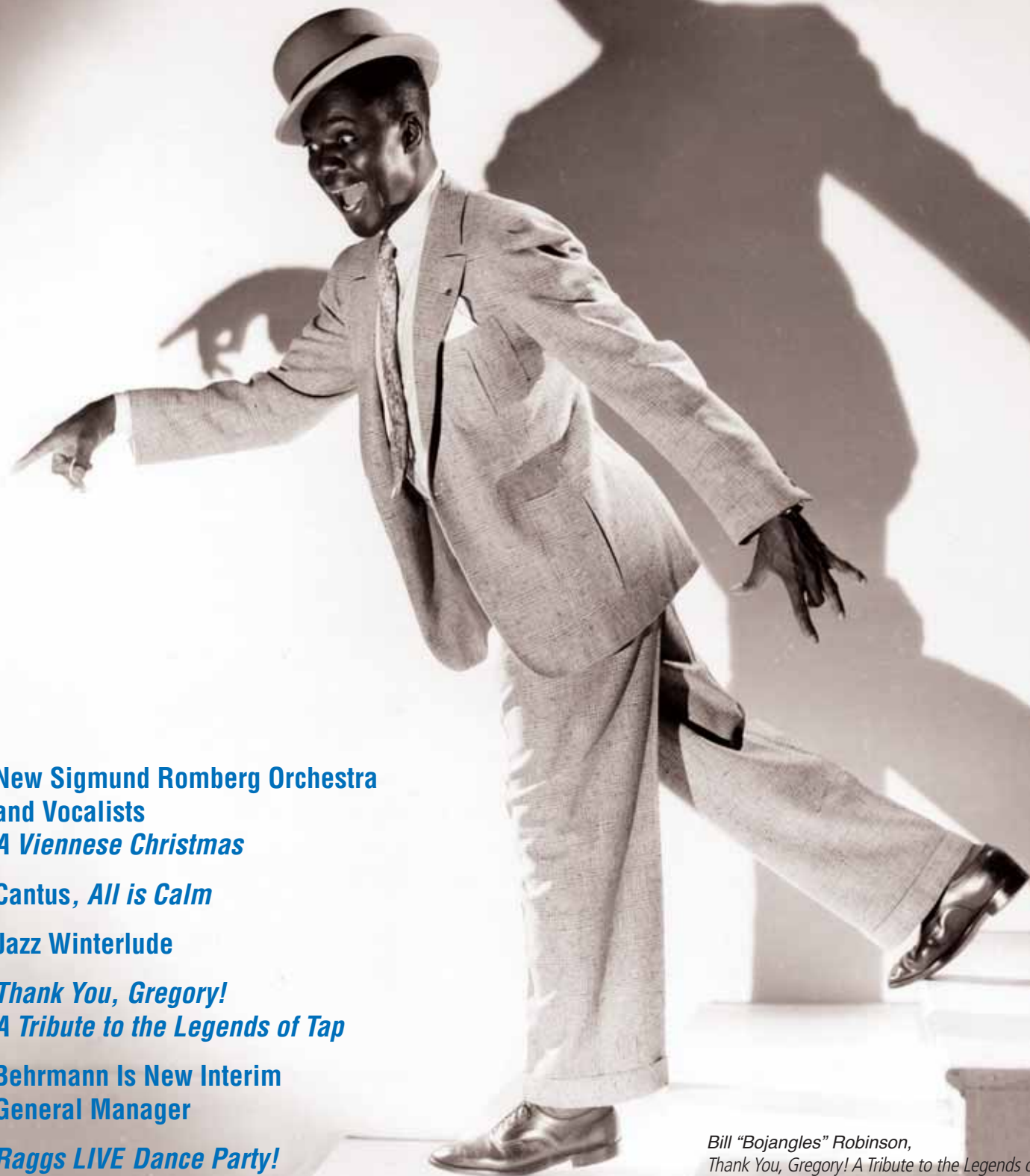
Jazz Winterlude

Thank You, Gregory!
A Tribute to the Legends of Tap

**Behrmann Is New Interim
General Manager**

Raggs LIVE Dance Party!

*Bill "Bojangles" Robinson,
Thank You, Gregory! A Tribute to the Legends of Tap*



A Viennese Christmas comes to Yardley Hall



Welcome the holiday season with *A Viennese Christmas*, an evening of holiday and Viennese music performed by the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra and Soloists, at 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in Yardley Hall of the Carlsen Center.

The Choraliers, a select group from the Johnson County Chorus, will sing carols in the Carlsen Center lobby beginning at 7 p.m.

A Viennese Christmas features an orchestra of 36 top professional orchestra musicians and four world-class vocalists conducted by Jason Altieri, associate conductor of the Atlanta Pops Orchestra. The New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra keeps the music of the prolific composer as fresh and alive as the day it was performed by the likes of Nelson Eddy, Jeanette MacDonald and Billie Holiday.

The orchestra takes its name from Hungarian-born composer, Romberg, and titles the program in reference to the Viennese-style of Romberg's operettas that became Broadway and Hollywood classics.

The program features Christmas music from carols to classics, including the upbeat *Sleigh Ride*, the melodic overture of Strauss' Christmas/New Year operetta *Die Fledermaus*, *Babes in Toyland*, traditional Viennese music and waltzes, and selections from Romberg's operettas — *The Student Prince*, *Up in Central Park* and *The New Moon*.

Born in Hungary, Romberg was educated in Vienna as an engineer but also studied composition. Immigrating to New York City in 1909, he played piano in a fashionable restaurant and then formed his own orchestra. Romberg's career as a composer of operettas with a Viennese flavor was established in the 1920s with works like those named above. Among his friends and collaborators were Al Jolson, Oscar Hammerstein II, Cole Porter,

George Gershwin, Gus Kahn and Irving Berlin.

With the advent of "talkies," Romberg moved to Hollywood in 1929. Several film adaptations of his operettas were released between 1929 and 1954, including the original *Viennese Nights* filmed in "Technicolor" in 1930.

Throughout the 1930s and '40s, he hosted weekly radio programs that included his own compositions and works by other popular composers. In the early 1940s, Romberg organized his first tour of The Sigmund Romberg Orchestra playing Broadway music and "popular classics." Because of its legacy, the orchestra is touted as the "first touring pops orchestra." The New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra dates to 1994.

Romberg was a congenial, fun-loving man known for his appreciation of good food and drink. His last successful work was a musical comedy, *Up in Central Park*, in 1945. He was a tireless composer who was working on a new musical at the time of his death in 1951 at the age of 64.

Tickets \$25 and \$15



All is Calm proves power of music for peace

The Western Front, Christmas, 1914. Out of the violence comes a silence, then a song. A young German soldier steps into No Man's Land singing *Stille Nacht (Silent Night)*. Thus begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music and peace.

The nine-male a capella voices of Cantus recreates this historical event in *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, in Yardley Hall of the Carlsen Center. Dr. Robert Xidis, JCCC English professor, and George Thompson, chair of the regional chapter for the Western Front Association, U.S. Branch, will present a preconcert talk at 7 p.m., giving the history of the Christmas Truce of 1914.

In this outstanding piece of musical drama, one of America's finest professional male vocal ensembles performs new arrangements of European carols and war songs — *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, *O Holy Night*, *Will Ye Go to Flanders?* and more. Two actors will narrate the story.

All is Calm is a collaboration between Cantus and Theater Latte Da, both at home in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Peter Rothstein, artistic director of the Theater, spent two years researching the undeclared truce when Allied Forces and German soldiers living in miserable trenches lay down their arms, exchanged gifts and even helped bury their enemies' dead. Narrative is taken from war documents, letters and journals.

"But it's the voices of the Cantus singers that make most of the magic in this show. Even when they're singing moldy oldies like *Pack up Your Troubles* (in your old kit bag, and smile, smile . . .) or holiday staples like *O Tannenbaum* and *Good King Wenceslas*, the arrangements are sophisticated and the execution superb. Cantus' version of *Silent Night* blends German and English lyrics with six-part harmonies to create an almost unbearably sad coda to the events of that night."

— Mpls. St. Paul Magazine

The dramatic story inspired new arrangements of Christmas pieces, war songs, patriotic numbers and sentimental tunes of the era by Cantus' artistic director Erick Lichte. Burying the dead, for example, provides the background for *Auld Lang Syne*.

Rothstein believes that music was essential to the 1914 Christmas truce, just as it is to the retelling of the story. *All is Calm* inspires a message of hope that peace, like music, can transcend nationalities.

For 14 years, Cantus has been dedicated to singing and promoting music for male voices in a variety of periods and genres including chant, Renaissance music, contemporary works, art song, folk, spirituals, world music and pop. Their sound is powerful yet intimate, their nine voices at times able to sound like one or 30.

Tickets \$30 and \$20



Winter comes to life with Jazz Winterlude

Johnson County Community College will banish the winter blues with a new three-day jazz festival — Jazz Winterlude: Kansas City Style, Friday-Sunday, Jan. 8-10, in the acoustically stellar venues of the Carlsen Center.

Kansas City brought jazz to life in the 1930s, and, vice-versa. Jazz brought life to Kansas City as political boss Tom Pendergast turned a blind eye to liquor laws and closing hours for bars with colorful names like the Chesterfield and Hey-Hay clubs, where jam sessions lasted 'til breakfast.

Jazz Winterlude continues the tradition with two full days of jazz and a Sunday brunch. Musicians are all local. Festival-goers will hear styles from Dixieland to contemporary and everything in between — swing, big band, bebop and vocal jazz.

“Kansas City has a huge cache of wonderful musicians who deserve to be heard by a wide audience in a concert setting,” said Doreen Maronde, one of the festival organizers.

The weekend program is:

Friday, Jan. 8

4-5 p.m.	Luqman Hamza Trio	Recital Hall
	New Red Onion Jazz Babies	Polsky Theatre
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Danny Embrey/Rod Fleeman	Recital Hall
	Greg Carroll Quartet	Polsky Theatre
8-9 p.m.	Rich Hill/Charles Perkins Quartet	Yardley Hall
9:15-10:15 p.m.	9 Plus1	Yardley Hall

Saturday, Jan. 9

4-5 p.m.	James Ward Trio	Recital Hall
	Doug Talley Quintet	Polsky Theatre
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Sherry Jones/Mike Ning	Recital Hall
	Sons of Brasil	Polsky Theatre
8-10:15 p.m.	Kansas City Jazz Orchestra	Yardley Hall

Sunday, Jan. 10

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Sunday brunch with the Dan DeLuca Trio (music until 2 p.m.)	Capitol Federal Conference Center
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“Because Kansas City is one of the jazz centers of the nation, this is the perfect location for a jazz festival. A lot of jazz greats like Charlie Parker and Count Basie got their start here, and I’m excited about the professionals performing today,” said Ron Stinson, JCCC professor of instrumental music.

Along with Maronde and Stinson, other organizers are Janice Mires, administrative assistant, and Collin Thomas, JCCC alumni, now professional percussionist and composer.

JCCC president Terry A. Calaway allotted seed money for the first year of the festival with a goal to earn money for music scholarships in future annual festivals.

Adding to the festival setting will be food available in the Carlsen Center. Free parking is available and plentiful as Jazz Winterlude takes place during the JCCC winter break.

“The festival gives people a chance to hear great jazz professionals for very little money at a convenient location,” Stinson said.

Tickets \$20 for either Friday or Saturday, \$25 for both days and \$20 for brunch



Dan DeLuca



Danny Embrey



Luqman Hamza



Rich Hill



Sherry Jones



Jim Mair



Mike Ning



Rod Fleeman



Sons of Brasil

Terrific Tap

Thank You, Gregory! A Tribute to the Legends of Tap is a celebration of tap stars from the time of minstrel shows to contemporary theater and film. Most especially, as the name implies, homage goes to Gregory Hines, an exceptional artist and major ambassador of tap dance.

Thank You, Gregory! will take to the stage at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, in Yardley Hall of the Carlsen Center. Film excerpts and narration highlight the history, as eight world-class hoofers and three jazz musicians create a rich and diverse kaleidoscope of tap dance history, artistry, romance, rhythms and musical feet. A company member will present Artists Insights at 7 p.m.

The show features tributes to many of the "kings" of tap dance including Fred Astaire, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, John Bubbles, Gene Kelly and the Nicholas Brothers; the leading ladies of Hollywood such as Ruby Keeler, Ann Miller, Eleanor Powell and Juanita Pitts; the eccentric dancers Ray Bolger, Donald O'Connor and Hal Leroy; the incredible concert-tap hoofers Dr. Jimmy Slyde, Chuck Green, Bunny Briggs, and the legacy of pioneering women in the 1970s led by the amazing Brenda Bufalino and numerous unsung hoofers who were often overlooked because of race, gender and social circumstances.

Hines, the suave dancer, singer and actor, died at age 57 on Aug. 9, 2003. This production pays tribute to him and to the numerous legends of tap dance with a fresh and dynamic glance at the past as well as a contemporary look at today's gifted tap artists whose "soles" they have guided and touched.

Today, tap dance is enjoying another wave of popularity that supports a new generation of hoofers who are at the top of their game, creating fresh concepts and collaborating on innovative ensemble work. They are moving tap into the future as one of the most innovative and exciting dance forms in modern history. And because of that we all say, "Thank you, Gregory!"

Tickets \$35 and \$25



The Nicholas Brothers



Gregory Hines



Fred Astaire



Domesha Sumbrey-Edwards



Ruby Keeler



Behrmann named interim general manager

Emily Fowler Behrmann, Lenexa, has been appointed interim general manager of the Performing Arts Series at JCCC, in concert with the opening of the 2009-2010 performing arts season.

As interim general manager, Behrmann will oversee the Performing Arts Series, including fundraising and programming.

Behrmann previously served the college in the JCCC Foundation, most recently as program director of annual campaigns and major gifts. She was the co-director of JCCC's \$20 million capital campaign to raise private funds for the construction of the Regnier Center and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art. She continued that success by securing funds for named galleries in the Nerman Museum and Regnier Center, Hiersteiner Center Outdoor Classroom and Oral Health on Wheels mobile dental hygiene unit and grants for the dental hygiene clinic renovation and professional Ruel Joyce Recital and Jazz series.

Behrmann developed and coordinated ongoing fundraising campaigns for the performing arts, visual arts, student scholarships and planned giving. She has directed the Polsky Practical Personal Enrichment Series and managed JCCC alumni activities.

Behrmann earned a bachelor of arts degree in music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Conservatory of Music. Early in her career, she held positions at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Kansas City Symphony and JCCC's Carlsen Center, where she worked as house manager and volunteer coordinator.

"After 14 years in the JCCC Foundation, I am very excited to be working with the performing arts again. I am an advocate of the arts, and I love the Carlsen Center venue. Yardley Hall is arguably the best acoustical hall in the region. I want to use the space to its full potential," Behrmann said.

She says her goal is to increase attendance and funding for the Performing Arts Series from individuals and the business community.

"We want to expand the currently offered programs to include events that attract a younger audience," she said. "Having said that, I want to continue to cater to our longtime audience members who have offered their invaluable support for 19 years."

Behrmann also recognizes the work of a loyal core of volunteers, many of whom have worked at the Carlsen Center since its dedication in October 1990.

"There are people attending the Performing Arts Series who have been with us from the first performance. We want to continue to present the programs they enjoy as well as broaden our audience," she said.

Behrmann is herself a fine vocalist having sung with the Kansas City Symphony Chorus and serving on its board. She also volunteers for various community nonprofit organizations.

Performing Arts Events

December 2009 *free-admission event



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Please everyone on your holiday list... give a gift of the Arts!</p> <p>Performing Arts Series Gift Certificates</p> <p>Shopping made easy!</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				



Purchase live online

January 2010

For best seats, order early. Call 913-469-4445 or visit www.jccc.edu/TheSeries for tickets and information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Carlson Center Administrative Office: Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday Call 913-469-4450 A request for interpretative services must be made 72 hours before a performance. Call the box office at 913-469-4445 or TDD/TTY 913-469-4485. Persons with disabilities who desire additional support services may contact services for patrons with disabilities, 913-469-8500, ext. 3521, or TDD/TTY 913-469-3885.		Box Office: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday • Call 913-469-4445 Tickets are required for most events in Polsky Theatre and Yardley Hall. Programs, dates and times are subject to change. There is a \$1 per ticket handling charge at the JCCC box office. Discounts are available for music, theater and dance students.				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



24 *Raggs LIVE Dance Party!*
 Performing Arts Outreach
 2 p.m. Yardley Hall
 \$12 adult, \$8 youth

25 *Raggs LIVE Dance Party!*
 Performing Arts Outreach
 School Shows
 9:45 a.m. and noon
 \$5

8 Jazz Winterlude: Kansas City Style
 4-10:15 p.m., Carlson Center venues
 \$20 for one day, \$25 for both

10 Jazz Winterlude: Kansas City Style
 brunch with Dan DeLuca Trio
 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 Capitol Federal Conference Center \$20

Kansas City Symphony Sunday
 Brahms Double Concerto, Dvorak
 2 p.m. Yardley Hall, \$52, \$42, \$12 youth

16 *Thank You, Gregory!*
A Tribute to the Legends of Tap
 Dance Series
 8 p.m. Yardley Hall
 \$35, \$25

Thank you, Gregory!

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'Raggs' cleans up as family show

A hit on PBS stations, *Raggs* now comes to the stage in *Raggs LIVE Dance Party!* at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, in Yardley Hall of the Carlsen Center.

In *Raggs LIVE Dance Party!*, the five canine members of The Raggs Band (Raggs, Trilby, Pido, B. Max and Razzles) each teach the audience their special two-step movement featured in a favorite song. B. Max's Dance-O-Meter, a giant interactive machine with an appetite, rates the dances. All the colorful canines prove to be winners so the tie is broken when the pups combine the dances into one super mega-dance. A wisecracking pet cat, Dumpster, hangs with the pups at the clubhouse; a human emcee named Roadie keeps things moving.

Geared for grades pre-K through third, children will be entertained as characters address education, creativity and social skills through the power

of music, humor and dance. With charming lyrics like, "Do the zoo, jungle zoo, let the animal inside of you have a word," children at a Raggs concert sing along and dance in place like teenagers at a rock concert.

Tickets \$12 adults, \$8 youth

