

Concerts Committee Annual Report 2014-2015

Committee members: Nathan Anderson, Emily Armbruster, Kevin Brown, Douglas Clem, June DeWeese, Laurie Erb, Chelsea Fricker, Julia Gaines, Kay Henderson, Breeya Johnson, Pat Lawnick-Ritchie, Shelley Lytle, Austin Miller, Joyce Mitchell, Kathy Murray, John Murray, Barbara Schneider, Don Spiers, Stacie Strong, Sue Troutner, Ethan Wilson

The advisory committee for the University of Missouri Concert Series met in October, November, February and April during the 2014-15 school year. Meetings were in room 307B Reynolds Alumni Center and were well attended.

Discussions included the restructuring of the University Concert Series and radio stations (KBIA 91.3 and to-be-named 90.5 FM), in which the University radio program, led by Mike Dunn, will now report to the School of Journalism and the University Concert Series, led by Nathan Anderson, will continue to report to the provost.

Nathan Anderson, facility events director John Murray and Shelley Lytle, the new artistic administrator for the Concert Series, informed the committee that the Concert Series will continue to produce approximately 25 shows per year and that in addition to featuring national and international touring musicians and performers, local performances from the Missouri Contemporary Ballet, Show-Me Opera (run by the MU School of Music) and the MU Theatre Department will be included in the program. Pre-concert introductions, as suggested by the committee, will be added to most performances to enhance audience reception. Updates to the Jesse Hall venue (e.g., air conditioning, elevator) and the recently acquired Missouri Theatre venue (e.g., acoustical shell, state-of-the-art digital projector) were also discussed. Jesse Hall will reopen for events in May 2015, but delayed reopening of the loading dock (from February 2016 to May 2016 due to Swallow Hall reconstruction) will also delay the ability of the Concert Series to host large productions in Jesse Hall. Kathy Murray, director of Student Life, reported this year's student-sponsored performances. Julia Gaines, chair and director of the School of Music, discussed the new format for the Chancellor's Art Showcase, which was very well received and now includes performances from all the Fine Arts.

The committee discussed methods to increase concert attendance and support by University members, students and the surrounding community. Advertising, donor receptions and benefits, outreach programs to local elementary students, website restructuring and feedback from concert attendees were among the discussion topics.

We look forward to a successful and entertaining new year.

Laurie Erb, chair