



Learning from the **MASTERS**

Young-Ah Tak

Eastern University welcomed four guest artists for a series of Master Classes

Throughout the school year, the Dance and Music Departments host classes designed to expose students to a variety of genres within the fine arts. This year, renowned Broadway performer **Gary Flannery** started the series with a traditional Broadway style warm-up routine, followed by a performance from Bob Fosse's hit musical, *Dancin'*. One of his former students is **Janine Bryant**, Co-Director of Dance, who said, "By bringing in professionals who teach different genres, we're able to offer valuable experiences for our students."

Laura Diestler '13, dance alum, said, "It was a joy and a privilege to work with a legend like Gary Flannery. He was dynamic, exciting, and full of stories. For a young dancer, it is inspiring to learn from someone who has had the life most dancers can

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only dream about.” First year dance student **Jordan Bonney** said, “From the moment we walked in, Mr. Flannery was so high energy and he lit up the room. He taught the class valuable lessons while giving us stories about Broadway life and how to make it in the competitive world of dance. He couldn’t have been more encouraging and entertaining.”

The Music Department Master Classes began about six years ago with classes taught by **David Kim**, Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Artist in Residence at Eastern. This year, in addition to David Kim’s class, students welcomed pianist and new Eastern faculty member, **Young-Ah Tak**, and Assistant Principal Bassist from The Philadelphia Orchestra, **Joseph Conyers**.

“Exposure to outstanding professional musicians and the opportunity for our students to interact with them provide greater awareness of the field and industry of music,” says Department Chair **Ron Matthews**.

As an accomplished concert pianist with training from The Julliard School, New England Conservatory, and The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Young-Ah Tak has had her work celebrated all over the world. She shared some of that talent and expertise with Eastern music majors by beginning her Master Class with a 20-minute piano solo that Dr. Matthews described as “flawless and breathtaking.” She then worked with junior piano student, **Joanna Schlatter**, by providing careful critiques and tips on her piano performance.

For those who attended David Kim’s class, the format was similar. “Mr. Kim has a way of identifying that next thing to improve a player,” says Dr. Matthews. Music majors and violinists, **Kelsey Johnson** and **Jessica Schmidt**, worked with Mr. Kim one-on-one. Said Schmidt, “It was an honor and a privilege to perform for him! I tried my best to cherish every moment of it and learn as much as I could from his teachings.”

Recommended by Mr. Kim as another accomplished musician for Eastern’s Master Classes was Joseph Conyers who gave a double bass performance and shared some of his experience as a bassist with The Philadelphia Orchestra. He also spoke to students about his personal journey and how music shaped his life. “Conyers’ candor, winsomeness, and easy laughter created an engaging environment for question and discussion,” Dr. Matthews noted.



David Kim



Gary Flannery



Joseph Conyers