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THE JOHNNY MERCER  
FOUNDATION

***The Johnny Mercer Writers Colony at Goodspeed Musicals***  
**Alumni Update – June 2016**

*Bleeding Love* by Jason Schafer, Arthur Lafrentz Bacon, & Harris Doran (2013)

*Bleeding Love* recently recorded a new demo featuring Bruce Coughlin's orchestrations created for 2015's premiere production at Fredericia Theater in Denmark. The demo cast included Tony Award-nominees Marc Kudisch and Sarah Stiles along with Annie Golden, Rebecca Naomi Jones, Taylor Trench, and Tony Vincent.

*Boy* by Samuel Wilmott (2013, 2014)

Samuel received the ASCAP Foundation Cole Porter Award in December.

*Chasing Rainbows* by Marc Acito, David Libby, & Tina Marie Casamento (2014)

*Chasing Rainbows* is looking forward to a production at the Goodspeed Opera House this fall.

*Darling Grenadine* by Daniel Zaitchik (2016)

*Darling Grenadine* was selected for the 2016 National Music Theater Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in July.

*Deathless* by Zack Zadek (2016)

*Deathless* is planning further development with a major regional theatre.

*Devotion* by Mark Sonnenblick (2016)

This summer, Mark will be developing *Devotion* at the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival.

*Hollywood Romance* & [Confidential Universal Project] by Marcy Heisler & Zina Goldrich (2016)

The *Hollywood Romance* team had a 29-Hour Reading in April under the auspices of Scott Sanders Productions. Their other Universal project is hoping for a 29-Hour Reading this summer under the auspices of Universal Stage Productions.

*In the Green* by Grace McLean (2016)

*In the Green* had a concert reading at Greenwich House Music School in their Uncharted series in May, and Grace just took it to The Orchard Project in Saratoga Springs earlier this month for further development. Later this month, she will be at the Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project at



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Northwestern. Grace will also be performing a song from *In the Green* for the NYMF Women of Note Concert in August. By the end of the summer, she is hoping to do another concert presentation of *In the Green*, and she is in talks with The Sheen Center and Ars Nova to host.

*King of Kong* by Michael Friedman & Rob Askins (2016)

Michael and Rob are still working on *King of Kong*, and Michael was recently appointed as the Artistic Director of Encores! Off Center.

*Learning How to Drown* by Patricia Noonan & Amanda Jacobs (2015)

*Learning How to Drown* had a beautiful workshop production at Boston College this past winter helmed by Igor Goldin. They were able to make strong changes, learn a great deal, and introduce puppetry into the piece.

*Legendale* by Andrea Daly & Jeff Bienstock (2014)

*Legendale* just wrapped up a full-length reading in May for a small crowd that included Stephen Schwartz, which was a thrill. This was the third presentation of *Legendale* in 2016, following appearances at the ASCAP/DreamWorks Musical Theatre Workshop at the Wallis in Los Angeles in February, and the ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop in New York in April. Andrea and Jeff are looking ahead to a workshop/staged reading in December at the Human Race Theatre Company in Ohio and a world premiere production in Denmark in March 2017 at the Fredericia Theater.

*The Lion* by Benjamin Scheuer (2013, 2014)

The album “Songs from *The Lion*” (official cast recording) was released on June 3. The show continues its national tour through February 2017.

*The Mapmaker’s Opera* by Victor Kazan & Kevin Purcell (2013)

Victor and Kevin are planning to workshop their revised version of *The Mapmaker’s Opera* in New York in 2017. A couple of months ago, Kevin recorded a new song from the revised score. It was brilliantly performed by Ron Raines.



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*Masterpiece by Madeline Myers, Meridith Friedman, & Emily Maltby (2015)*

Madeline, Meridith, and Emily are continuing to work on their musical about the world's largest unsolved art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum called *Masterpiece*. In March, they had a small reading of the show, and they have plans to workshop it further later this year.

*Nikola Tesla Drops the Beat by Nikko Benson & Benjamin Halstead (2016)*

Nikko Benson received the 2016 Jonathan Larson Award. Benjamin and Nikko are still working on *Nikola Tesla Drops the Beat*, and they will be performing a few numbers at the Rahway Arts Festival in New Jersey, which this year is dedicated to Tesla. They are planning on doing a reading or workshop in September and are working on creating a music video with a company that makes 360-degree videos this summer.

*The Ninth Hour by Kate Douglas & Shayfer James (2016)*

Since the Colony, Kate has been accepted to the Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project at Northwestern this month. Kate and Shayfer are also performing an industry concert of the music from *The Ninth Hour* in July at Rockwood Music Hall.

*REB + VODKa + ME by Julia Meinwald & Gordon Leary (2016)*

Julia and Gordon have continued to develop the show through the Civilians' R&D group. They presented a sharing of the show with the Civilians in late May as part of their Findings series.

*The Republic by Kait Kerrigan & Brian Lowdermilk (2014)*

In July, Kait and Brian will be workshopping a reading of *The Republic*, an epic adaptation of Henry IV, at The Arden Theatre in Philadelphia.

*Row by Dawn Landes & Daniel Goldstein (2015)*

This summer, Dawn and Daniel will be doing a rewrite on *Row* at Rhinebeck Writers Retreat and the Kimmel Center's Theater Residency in Philadelphia. Daniel also received the 2016 Kleban Prize.



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*Secret Soldiers* by Zoe Sarnak & Marsha Norman (2016)

Zoe and Marsha will be working on *Secret Soldiers* at Williamstown Theatre Festival this summer.

*Sunrise Prayer* by Ty Defoe, Tidtaya Sinutoke, & Mary Kathryn Nagle (2016)

Ty and Tidtaya received the Robert Rauschenberg Residency in Florida this spring.

*Stealing Time* by Tor Hyams & Lisa Rothauser (2015)

Tor and Lisa have completed *Stealing Time* and are now working on putting it up in a developmental production.

*A Strange Loop* by Michael R. Jackson (2015)

*A Strange Loop* was recently part of the New Musicals at 54 Series at Feinstein's/54 Below. Michael also just released his debut EP *Good Clean Music* on Bandcamp.

*Swan Lake & Puccini* by Peter Seibert & Patrick Lundquist (2013, 2015)

Peter and Patrick are doing a full presentation of *Swan Lake* at the end of this month and are doing a full concept album recording complete with a 20-piece orchestra. They are very much looking forward to seeing it on its feet and are hoping to do similar thing with *Puccini* soon.

*The Theory of Relativity & Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Neil Bartram & Brian Hill (2013)

PS Classics released the cast recording of *The Theory of Relativity* on June 3. *Something Wicked This Way Comes* will be part of the New Works Festival at Theatreworks Silicon Valley in August.

*We Foxes & Jasper in Deadland* by Ryan Scott Oliver (2014, 2015)

*We Foxes* is going to be in the Village Theatre's Festival of New Musicals in Seattle. *Jasper in Deadland* just released its cast recording on Spotify.



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*Wintersong* by Jeff Talbott & Will Van Dyke (2016)

Jeff and Will are putting the finishing touches on studio demos for *Wintersong*, after having completed a full draft of the musical at the Colony. They are excited to get it out in the world.