



Colorado State University

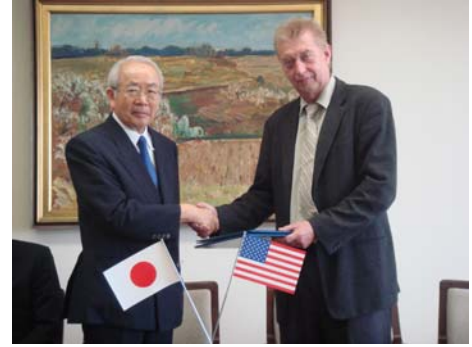
School of the Arts

Art ♦ Music ♦ Theatre ♦ Dance

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Press Release

Right: The signing of the collaborative agreement between Colorado State University and Kurashiki Sakuyo Music University



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CHAIR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL HONORS AND RESEARCH GRANT

Fort Collins, CO – The Department of Music in School of the Arts of Colorado State University is honored to announce that its Chair, Dr. Michael Thaut, Director of the Center for Biomedical Research in Music and Co-Executive Director of the School of the Arts, has recently received several academic honors and a large research grant that will enhance the national and international reputation of the University.

At the membership meeting of the International Society of Clinical Neuromusicology in Hannover, Germany in November, Thaut was elected president. The society was founded last Spring by a prominent international group of neuroscientists, physicians, therapists, and musicians to promote and support research in the neurobiology of music and applications to all forms of music learning, development, and therapy.

“This is a deep honor, and I am pleased to be the University’s representative in gaining international visibility for music and brain research,” said Thaut.

The new society will support and advance applied brain research in music that is focused on medicine and rehabilitation, all forms of music education and music learning, and the benefits of music in childhood development. To support that end, the society will also support basic research efforts to understand the neurobiological foundations of music in the brain.

“We want to help advance any understanding how music educates and re-educates the brain, in musicians, patients, young children, students, in all of society,” according to Thaut.

Thaut has also received an honoray professorship in music on the faculty of Kurashiki Sakuyo Music University in Japan and will visit and lecture there once a year. A collaborative agreement was signed between Colorado State and Kurashiki Sakuyo Music University to pursue mutual projects, exchanges, and research. The professorship and collaboration will promote valuable campus internationalization and professional development.

As a member of a team of Colorado State researchers, Thaut has also received a two-year, \$380,604 research grant from the National Institutes of Health to examine methods that could improve the rehabilitation process for stroke survivors.

The project is a collaborative study between Department of Occupational Therapy professor Matt Malcolm's NeuroRehabilitation Research Laboratory and the Center for Biomedical Research in Music.

The BRAINSTIM Project will use magnetic stimulation to excite an area of the brain that controls voluntary movement. For 10 days, transcranial magnetic stimulation will be delivered to the stroke-damaged brain hemisphere. Following treatment, the participants will undergo rigorous therapy to redevelop voluntary movement in their stroke-affected arm. This therapy, known as constraint-induced therapy, involves restraining the individual's unaffected arm, which encourages them to use their stroke-affected limb.

Michael Thaut received his masters and PhD in music from Michigan State University. He is also a graduate of the Mozarteum Music Conservatory in Salzburg/Austria. At Colorado State University he is a Professor of Music and a Professor of Neuroscience.

He was a Visiting Professor of Music at the Mozarteum in 1985, and a Visiting Professor of Kinesiology at the University of Michigan/Ann Arbor in 1993. He has also been a Visiting Scientist in Neurology at Duesseldorf University Medical School since 1995. He received the National Research Award in 1993 and the National Service Award in 2001 from the American Music Therapy Association. He has over 130 scientific publications and has authored and coauthored 4 books. His works have appeared in German, Japanese, Korean, Italian, and Spanish language. Popular TV media and numerous print media have featured his research nationally and internationally.

As a former professional violinist in the classic and folk genre he has recorded several recordings of chamber and folk music in the US and Germany and has toured in Europe extensively with folk bands and chamber groups. He is also the author of a landmark anthology of Northern European and American fiddle music. In 1995 his group 'Folk Chamber Ensemble' played 3 invited concerts at the Northwest German Summer Music Festival.

For more information on the Colorado State University School of the Arts and the Department of Music, visit www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com.

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The School of the Arts at Colorado State University provides an enriched venue in which the study and practice of Art, Dance, Music and Theatre are nurtured and sustained by building the skills and knowledge needed by future generations of arts professionals to become contributors to the essential vitality of our culture and society. For more information, visit www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com.