It’s a little hard to believe January has already come and gone, but we managed to sneak in a field trip to Opera Birmingham’s *La Traviata* and our first recital of the semester this past month. Last Saturday’s performance by the LeBaron Trio from Monetvallo was a wonderful cap to our first few weeks back. This February holds some community performances, another field trip (this time to see Alabama Symphony), and a showcase of our faculty. We hope to see you there!

February holds a few famous birthdays in music history, not the least of which is Alban Berg’s on Feb. 9th – he would have been 131 this year. Berg was an Austrian composer best known for his atonal and twelve-tone compositions. A devout pupil of Arnold Schoenberg, Berg remained true to late 19th-century Romanticism. Among his orchestral works, chamber works, and songs are two landmark operas, *Wozzeck* and *Lulu*.

*Wozzeck* remains one of the most performed atonal operas. It was not an easy one to get off the ground though. World War I interrupted Berg’s work on the score and, even once finished, it took another four years and 137 rehearsals before the premiere performance was presented at the Berlin State Opera just before Christmas, 1925. It has come to represent new heights for German Expressionism, but there were more than a few disapprovers at the time. One such reviewer wrote, “As I was leaving the State Opera I had the sensation of having been not in a public theatre but in an insane asylum…I regard Alban Berg as a musical swindler and a musician dangerous to the community.” May we all be such swindlers during the next fortnight!

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**Community Rehearsals**

**Community Choir**
- Rehearsal on Thurs., Feb. 4th from 7 – 8:30 pm in Maze 103
- Rehearsal on Thurs., Feb. 11th from 7:30 pm in Maze 103

**Community Wind Band**
- First Rehearsal on Feb. 22nd from 6:30-8 pm in Maze Bldg. Bandroom

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**Upcoming Events**

- 2/28 at 3 pm in Fielder Auditorium – Fine Arts Faculty Showcase
- 3/5 at 7 pm in Fielder Auditorium – 4-hands Piano Recital w/guest artist Gianluca Strazzulla