

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

Volume 24, Number 1



Fall 2000

HUGH SANDERS APPRECIATION

The dinner and Chorale reunion that was held on May 6th to honor Dr. Hugh Sanders for his years of service as director of the WT Chorale and Dean of Fine Arts was a smashing success. It was great to see all of those former Chorale members sitting in the choir room once again for the afternoon rehearsal.

Dinner that evening was followed by reminiscences about Dr. Sanders and the fun times in the WT Chorale. Many alumni shared their feelings about the influence that Dr. Sanders had on their lives and music careers. It was a treat to hear the Talley brothers sing a Larry Gatlin tune. The concert by the Alumni Chorale included such pieces as "O Schone Nacht," "Movin' On," "Cantate Sing to the Lord," "Give Me Jesus," and concluded with "Mary Wore Three Links of Chain." I'm sure we will never forget the moment when Dr. Sanders rose to his feet and said, "Encore!"

The generosity of Chorale alumni resulted in an endowment of \$10,000 toward the Hugh Sanders Scholarship that will be awarded to music education majors. If you were unable to attend, a video and audio recording will be available soon. You may contact Dr. Cloyce Stradley at cstradley@mail.wtamu.edu or (806)651-2856. If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship, you may send that to WTAMU



Dr. Hugh Sanders with Scott Herrington
at the chorale reunion.

Department of Music and Dance,
WTAMU Box 60879, Canyon, TX
79016.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Last year the Showcase of Music Concert added \$40,000 to our scholarship funds. That sum includes donations from alumni and music department supporters, program advertisers, and ticket sales. Everything raised for this major concert went to scholarship support; all expenses related to putting on the event came out of the band camp account. Of that \$40,000, \$9,000 was put into the Showcase Dinner account so that it becomes principal and we

only use the interest. As this fund grows, we will be able to have a steady income and not have to continually raise every single dime that we need for scholarships.

There is a very attractive poster on the foyer wall as one enters the recital hall listing the names of all those who contributed to the Showcase of Music. It's important for everyone to see that we have a lot of people who believe in what we are doing, and I want the world to know exactly who those people are.

This year, \$150,000 was awarded in scholarships in the form of university dorm scholarships,

Chairman's Column can't p. 3

ALUMNI NOTES

Judy Hubbard ('65 BM) writes that she is substitute teaching in Lorenzo, Ralls, & Crosbyton. She will retire in May of 2001. Currently, she is the organist at First United Methodist Church in Ralls, where husband, Gary, is pastor. In addition, she is a grandmother to 2 girls and 1 boy, and a step-mom to 7 and foster mom to 2 adult children.

Donna Saylor ('75 BM) is living in Blanket, TX. She and Doug and their three children, aged 19, 17, and 15, have lived there the past 13 years. Donna's a stay-at-home mom and Doug is in irrigation installation and repair. Donna says music is still a very special part of her life.

Jim Lyon ('84-'91, HSQ), former violin instructor and Harrington String Quartet member, writes: "I'm ashamed to have been so out-of-touch, but a musician's life coupled with three growing children equals some kind of circus act! (I know - we're wimps compared to you...) Actually the family is playing at St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC on November 5th as part of their new chamber series. We play mostly quartet repertoire arranged for our unusual instrumentation of two violins and two cellos. (Our soon-to-be seven-year-old son Nicholas joins us for a few numbers, too, as another violinist.) Clara is a freshman in high school this year and is playing great - takes lessons in Philadelphia with Yumi Scott. Lizzy, our cellist daughter, is a sixth-grader at Our Lady of Victory School and studies with her Mom. Carol and I play a lot of gigs together and she plays principal cello in a local professional chamber orchestra.

All my best to my old friends and colleagues and the new Harringtons!
Sincerely, Jim Lyon
Associate Professor of Music
Penn State"

Brandon Cameron ('00 BM) is teaching at a magnet middle school and living in Mesquite. He recently won the second bassoon position with the Dallas Wind Symphony.

Alumni on the move...Mike Sheffield ('95 BME) has moved from Palo Duro High School in Amarillo to Canyon High School; **Phil**

LaRocque ('83 BME, '89 MA) has gone from Borger High School to The Colony High School; **Kevin Kuehler** ('87 BME) has taken Phil's place at Borger; **Joe Pruitt** ('87 BME, '94 MA) makes the move from Dulles Middle School to First Colony Middle School in Fort Bend; **Liz Doughten** ('99 BM) has moved on to Sanford-Fritch High School; **Mike Ellis** ('96, BM) has moved from Valleyview Middle School to Tascosa High School; **Nathan Carter** ('88 MM) and **Anthony Gilreath** ('96 BME) have moved over to Dulles Middle School; and **Kathy Kendle** ('76 BME, '80 MM) is the new strings teacher at Fannin Middle School.

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Dr. Joseph Cox and his wife Brenda attended the International Trombone Festival held in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He attended as a member of the William Cramer Memorial Trombone Choir directed by French trombonist Michel Becquet. One of the highlights of the festival was hearing the Residente Orchestra of the Hague and its accompaniment of the artists at the conference including Joseph Alessi, principal trombonist of the New York Philharmonic. Jazz night featured the Orchestra Metropole accompanying the jazz artist performing a new jazz septet for orchestra and trombones. The festival was concluded with a concert in the beautiful Dom Cathedral of Utrecht by all of the trombone choirs.

Robert Hansen had the unique opportunity of starring in and providing musical consultation for a capitalization production of a new Broadway musical. Laughing Tiger Productions of New York teamed up with Icarus Productions of Amarillo to seek financial backing for a projected Broadway run of the musical. One of the partners in the New York company is Susan Ingalls, who has ties to the Panhandle. The musical is based on a 1920s Pulitzer Prize winning play entitled *Miss Lulu Bett*. The story tells of a woman held hostage by the social conditions of the 20s, unmarried, unskilled, and unable to better herself without the escape offered by a relationship with a man.

The production inaugurated the newly refurbished auditorium on the 11th floor of the historic Santa Fe Building in downtown Amarillo, and played to large audiences during its week-long run.

Ron Lemon, associate professor of music, performed with the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C., on August 7. Lemon was invited to play in concert with the band on the occasion of its 75th anniversary celebration. He also attended an alumni banquet and a special ceremony for the dedication of a plaque at the Navy Museum. Lemon played principal horn and was a soloist with the Navy Band during the John F. Kennedy administration.

Faculty Recitals Galore! The WTAMU music faculty is off and running with a series of solo and chamber recitals this fall. Starting off the semester was **Denise Parr-Scanlin**, piano, and **Emmanuel Lopez**, cello, on September 8th. **Sally Turk** gave a solo flute recital on September 10th and **Doug Storey**, clarinet, and **Joe Cox**, trombone presented a joint recital October 5th. **Corinne Stillwell's** solo violin recital on October 8th was followed on the 10th by a faculty chamber recital featuring a performance of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* with **Gary Garner** conducting. **Tina Carpenter**, **Robert Krause**, and **Susan Martin Tariq** gave a joint recital on the 15th. Another faculty chamber recital was given October 28th featuring vocalists **Robert Hansen** and **Cloyce Beard-Stradley**. In the spring semester, **Don Lefevre** will give a solo saxophone recital January 25th at 8:00 pm in Northern Recital Hall. The next day will feature many more music faculty in the annual **Faculty Grand Recital**, also at 8:00 pm. **Mila Abbasova**, staff accompanist, will perform on April 4th, and **Cloyce Beard-Stradley**, mezzo soprano, on April 28th, all at 8:00 pm in Northern Hall.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

This fall we welcomed new double bass instructor **Sandor Ostlund** to the



Retired Faculty Reception: Martha Morris, left, visits with Music department chairman, Ted DuBois.

WT music department family. Originally from Wisconsin, among other places, Sandor is completing a Doctor of Musical Arts from Rice University in Houston. He has performed with the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Ballet, the San Antonio Symphony, the Madison Symphony, and Le Synfonietta de Paris, and has been featured in recital on several meetings of the International Society of Bassists. He has also written several articles for *Strings Magazine*, *Bass World* and *The Double Bassist*. His wife, Vanessa, is the orchestra director at Austin Middle School in Amarillo. Welcome Sandor and Vanessa!

RETIRED FACULTY RECOGNIZED

The music department recognized some of its distinguished retired faculty with a reception on September 27th in the formal lounge of the Fine Arts Building. Mary Ruth McCulley, former professor of organ, Martha Morris, music librarian, and George Eason, retired piano professor, were guests of honor and included in the annual faculty portrait to be part of the departmental brochure.

MUSIC THERAPY

Greetings from the Music Therapy Department. Hope everyone is having a good fall. Like most falls, this one

is no different. Busy, busy, busy. We have 13 new students this fall and several are preparing for senior recitals later this semester. The students have just returned from an overnight retreat at a student's cabin. All had good food, a good time, and good company. We are preparing for upcoming conferences. Many of us are flying to St. Louis for the national conference and we are making plans for the regional conference in El Paso. The club president is making arrangements for a charter bus to take us down. We have a few empty seats if you are interested (if you can handle the excitement and energy bound to be on that bus!!). The club is also selling candles again and Christmas CDs to raise money for the conferences. If you would like more information or want to purchase a candle or CD, contact Dr. Kahler. Have a great fall and we look forward to seeing you in St. Louis.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN, cont'd

endowment interest, Showcase of Music, and band camp profits. That's a lot of money. Our top scholarship is still comparatively small, but this year we were able to award bonuses to truly outstanding freshmen ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 from the bequest that Mrs. Sybil Harrington left to the college two years ago. It made a big impact in our recruiting class. Dr.

Krause, for example, has 80 students in freshman literature in N-225! We're going to have to find a larger room if this keeps up (which we hope it does). Dr. Biffle thinks that this is the best choir situation we've had since he has been here.

The bottom line is that we think that our music program is blossoming though it may look like winter outside. We have some extremely talented students. We intend to carry on the fine tradition that was started many years ago.

You'll notice that there aren't many alumni notes this time. What happened? Did you lose our e-mail address? (It's first initial lastname@mail.wtamu.edu, so mine would be tdubois@mail.wtamu.edu.) We'd love to hear from you (as would the other alumni), so drop us a line.

Thanks for your continued support. The alumni mean a lot to us. Please plan to stop by the Menger Hotel, Friday evening, February 9, for the alumni reception.

BAND AND ORCHESTRA

The marching band got off to a very quick start this fall with a game on the Saturday before classes began. The first meeting with the full band was on Tuesday and even with such little preparation time, they performed superbly. They obviously didn't have the band in mind when they made up the football schedule for the year. The second game was four weeks after the first. Nevertheless, the year's off to a great start and spirits are high. This year's trip was to Stephenville for the Tarleton State game on October 7. They also performed for the Lubbock ISD Marching Festival on Tuesday, September 26 and at the Area Marching Contest in Amarillo on October 28.

The Wind Ensemble joined the orchestra to present a pops concert for the Friends of Fine Arts on Friday, September 29. One of the highlights was *Capriccio for Saxophone Quartet and Band*, performed by Don Lefevre and three of his students.

The Concert and Symphonic Bands will begin after the last football game on November 4. Their Christmas concerts will be on Sunday, December

3 at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., respectively.

The orchestra will be performing three concerts this semester. The first was a joint pops concert with the Wind Ensemble for the Friends of Fine Arts on Friday, September 29, when they performed Gershwin's *American in Paris*. The second concert was on Sunday, October 29 at 8:00 p.m. in Northern Recital Hall. The program included the Dvorak New World Symphony and the Paganini Violin Concerto No. 1 with Corinne Stillwell as soloist. The final concert will be the annual Christmas concert with the choir on Friday, December 1.

AMERICAN STORY WINS PRIZE IN NEW YORK CITY

In March of 1999 *American Story*, the musical composed and written by Bill Evans and Laurel Vartabedian, was produced by the WTAMU Musical Theatre area as the spring musical, and was acclaimed by sold-out houses in a six-day run. Later in the spring it was entered in a competition, along with 69 other shows from across the nation, for the privilege of participating in the Midtown International Theatre Festival of New York City.

It was among only 19 shows chosen to make up this year's festival, which took place during August at the Pantheon Theatre, an off-off-Broadway venue at 303 W. 42nd Street. Each show received 9 performances during a three week period at the end of which four shows were chosen "Best of Fest." Each of the four was given four additional performances. *American Story* was one of the shows so honored.

MUSICAL THEATRE

This year, the Musical Theatre Workshop presented a fall revue and will present a spring musical. The Musical Revue was held at 8:00 p.m. in FAB Room 158 - the Intimate Theatre, September 28, 29, & 30. It was free, although every five dollars or more donated to the theatre travel fund received a 25% discount to the Stomping Grounds Coffee House. What's the use of sitting alone in your



2000-2001 Music Therapy Club Executive Council: Front Row (Left to Right): Valerie Mares, Tiffany Tarr, & Melissa Keys. Back Row (Left to Right) Molly Cox, Robbin Buford, & Jennifer Sullivan.

room? Come hear the music play! (Some of the revue's numbers were not recommended for children.) Royal Brantley and Dr. Joe Ella Cansler directed.

In the spring semester the BIT plans to present the Broadway classic, *Godspell* by Stephen Schwartz, February 8-10 at 8:00 p.m., February 11 at 3:00 p.m., and February 14-17 at 8:00 p.m. in the Branding Iron Theatre. This will be co-directed by Royal Brantley and Dr. Joe Ella Cansler. *Godspell* is based upon the Gospel according to St. Matthew. We invite you all to come and enjoy.

TECHNOLOGY MEETS ARTISTRY

Every Friday, voice students gather in the Schaeffer-Piehl Vocal Research Lab to learn about the acoustics of the singing voice. Computer based technology allows students to see a spectographic imprint of their voices. A spectrogram identifies the overtones present in the voice, and gives the singer a visual analysis to supplement their aural impressions of their voices. The technology also offers an opportunity to practice vowels for accuracy. The lab has been in



Retired Faculty Reception: Donna Flatt, music office secretary, left, and Barabara Wooldridge, band secretary, visit with retired organ professor, Mary Ruth McCulley, center.

development for four years and is an important part of the vocal pedagogy program at WTAMU. Future plans include additional equipment to measure such things as nasality and air flow in the voice. The lab offers a great experience for singers learning the physical and acoustical how and why of singing.

CHORAL ACTIVITIES

We are off to a tremendous start this year with an influx of the best freshmen class of singers we have had during my tenure as choral director. We have several Texas and New Mexico "all-state" members and a wealth of otherwise talented incoming singers. Both the WT Chorale and Collegiate Chorus have more depth and numbers. Our season kicked off with our fall concert Thursday evening, October 26.

Collegiate Chorus' repertoire included Vincenzo Bellini's "Salve Regina," an extended work for chorus and organ; John Ness Beck's "Psalm 67"; Noel Goemanne's "Cantate Sing to the Lord"; Williametta Spencer's "At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners"; Houston Bright's "The Lotus Dust"; John Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth"; and a spiritual arrangement by Walter Ehret entitled "All My Trials." The WT Chorale performed Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck's "Praise Ye the Lord and Sing a New



The Alumni Choir rehearsing at the chorale union.

Song," four of Johannes Brahms's 26 *German Folk Songs* for unaccompanied mixed chorus, two of the Anton Bruckner's "Graduals for the Church Year For Mixed Voices," "Two Psalms" by Howard Hanson featuring Dr. Cloyce Beard-Stradley as contralto soloist, Houston Bright's "Lament of the Enchantress," and "O Clap Your Hands" by Harald Rohlig. It was an entertaining and musically rewarding experience for both choirs and audience.

Other events scheduled for the fall include participation with the Amarillo Symphony in their production of Ludwig Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

on November 18, a joint effort with the Amarillo Civic Chorus and the Oklahoma City Civic Chorus and both WT choruses. Following is the Carol of Lights on November 28, the annual Choral-Orchestra Christmas Concert on December 8, our best-attended event of the school year, and the Renaissance Holiday Feast, previously named the Madrigal Dinner. Speaking for the Department of Music and Dance and all of our students, I wish to invite you to any or all of these concerts. Looking forward to seeing you here!

George Biffle, D.M.A.
Director of Choral Activities

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**CALENDER OF EVENTS
SPRING 2001**

January 26...Music Career Day and
Faculty Grand Recital, 8:00 pm NRH
February 8-10, 14-17...Musical, BIT
February 18...Symphonic Band, 8:00 pm NRH
March 4...Concerto Concert, 8:00 pm NRH
March 10...Scholarship Audition Day

April 6...Showcase of Music Concert
April 7...Scholarship Audition Day
April 22...Percussion Ensemble, 8:00 pm NRH
April 24...Jazz Band, 8:00 pm NRH
April 29...Concert Band, 3:00 pm NRH
April 29...Symphonic Band, 8:00 pm NRH
May 1...Choir Concert, 8:00 pm NRH

See our webpage for more concert information:
www.wtamu.edu/academic/fah/mus

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