

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

Volume 29, Number 1

Fall 2005



JOE NELSON TO RETIRE

After thirty-five years as professor of music theory and composition, Dr. Joe Nelson will retire at the end of the summer of 2006. Dr. Nelson has touched countless students who have ventured through his sophomore and advanced theory classes and have made great contributions to the music department at WT. Bill Evans, associate professor of piano writes " Joe Nelson and I have been friends and colleagues for many years so it will not come as a surprise if I pen a few words of praise as he heads into retirement. I have seen a number of theory-pedagogue-composers in action over the years and I think that Joe has been one of the very few who managed to be really good at all of his jobs. So I offer this limerick in his honor.:

There was a professor named Joe
Who handled his job like a pro
Mainly because
That's what he was:
A prof and a pro on the go.

So as he goes on with his life,
We all wish for him and his wife
Warm days with the dogs
And flights without fogs
And time with which friendship is rife."

If you have some fond memories of your experiences with Dr. Nelson, we would love to have you share them with all of us.

DEPARTMENT HEAD'S COLUMN

Let's continue the lead story one step further: On Wednesday, February 22, there will be a concert honoring Dr. Nelson that will feature a string quartet he wrote (to be performed by the Harrington String Quartet) and a woodwind quintet (to be performed by faculty from Stephen F. Austin, where his daughter Kirsten teaches bassoon). Following the performance, we will host a reception, and Dr. Krause will be working on collecting a scrapbook of memories, and that's where you come in.

Grand Opening Set for October 20. "When you wish upon a star" doesn't always work! It didn't this time, and I could see the stars clearly. Weather delays have forced us to the fall semester for the grand opening of the new fine arts complex. The last I heard was that the contractor would have 95% completion by March 15, would take 30 days to finish the project, then the university will take 30 days to hook up electricity and networking and do cleaning. The move from the FAB to the new fine arts complex will probably take the summer, and we will start the fall semester in the new building. Eventually the fine arts building will be razed, but no definite plans have been announced. One campus renovation project will have the FAB used as faculty office space for 18 months.

Dr. Garner, Emeritus Professor. On August 24, Dr. Garner was presented the title Emeritus Professor. The university's policy is that a faculty member has to have worked at WT for 10 years (✓), have been retired for two years (✓), continues to be actively engaged in the profession/community (✓✓), and has to be nominated and the nomination has to be supported by letters (✓). Several of our alumni—big names in the business—wrote very strong letters of support. The extra burden hasn't weighted him down, though. He continues on at his incredible pace.

New Scholarships. Mrs. Eleanor Glazener has established an endowed scholarship for a deserving string quartet student to be selected by the string faculty probably beginning next fall. (I hope I'm remembering this right, but this is the third Glazener scholarship at WT, and Mrs. Glazener wanted to set up a music scholarship because her two sons played viola

growing up and she liked the idea of being involved in chamber music.)

The Dr. David A. and Lucy S. LaBrie Vocal Scholarship was created last spring. The student selected must be one of Dr. Kuhnert's students, and she will select the recipient.

Mr. and Mrs. Durham of Lubbock have established an endowed scholarship in honor of Dr. Krause to be awarded to an oboe student. Dr. Krause gave oboe lessons to their son, Dallas. Though Dallas didn't come to WT as a music major and the Durhams have no connection to WT, they are appreciative of Dr. Krause's instruction and serving as a strong mentor to their son and have established this endowed scholarship to honor Dr. Krause.

Normally, endowed scholarships are dormant for a year so that interest can accumulate. If the Foundation's 4% payout continues, these scholarships will generate approximately \$600 per year. We're extremely grateful for scholarships that recognize our faculty and the high achievement of our music program.

Old Ritornelli. While we will continue to mail *Ritornello*, I thought it would be a good idea to scan all the previous issues and put them on our website. (We don't think that the spring 1997 and the spring 1989 issues were ever printed; they might only exist in someone's mind.)

Violinist Annie Chalex has announced her resignation from the Harrington String Quartet (and WTAMU) effective at the end of the spring semester. She came to WT in 1997 and will be continuing her professional career in Michigan. Obviously, this is a great loss to our music program, but we wish her well in her future endeavors.

We've got a lot of things going on, and I'm sure that I've forgotten to tell you something-or-other that you'll hear from someone else. Send me an e-mail if you have any questions or if there's something I can help you with. If you're on campus, stop by. We hope to see you at the alumni reception at TMEA. (I hope you receive this *Ritornello* before TMEA.)
Ted DuBois

ALUMNI NOTES

Marc Shellum (BME '75) who played French horn and was a member of KKY and Phi Mu Alpha sends us an update: "I have just retired after a 30 year career as a teacher in the Channelview ISD. I spent all 30 years in the Channelview district, teaching band for 16 years and Texas history for 14 years. Now that I am retired, I plan to spend time pursuing my second career as an actor in the Houston area. I have already been active in the Houston theater district for 15 years.

"My family consists of my son, Jay Shellum (34), and his wife, Tracey. They live in Ft. Worth where Jay is a CPA and Tracey is a stay-at-home mom to their two boys, Jacob (5) and Jeff (3). Part of my retirement plan is to spend more time with my family, especially playing with my grandsons.

"I would love to hear from any of my old WT friends at mshellum@aol.com.

"Best of luck to WT on the expansion program. I hope to visit the area soon."

René Combest Brain (BME '80) has a new faculty position at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, OK. She still resides in Borger.

Jim Cordani (BME '81) and Alice (Loving) Cordani (BME '81) are still in the Corpus Christi area. After 12 years of running a chain of insurance agencies Jim has gone back to teaching. He is the new band director at George West High School & Junior High. Alice is beginning her 24th year of teaching. She works for CCISD and teaches at Casa Linda & Oak Park Elementary. Their daughter Lauren is now in 7th grade and playing oboe. Lauren is proud to be studying privately with Dr. Evelyn McCarty and playing in the Tuloso-Midway MS Band! Alice is especially proud because she also was a member of the Tuloso-Midway band program.

Dr. Alan Asher (BM '83) "I've just completed my third year as a tenure-track librarian at the University of Northern Iowa where I am in charge of the music and art collections. I am happily married to the former Larisa Aleksandrovna Karataeva of Kherson, Ukraine. I still play the violin for fun as principal 2nd violin of the Wartburg Community Symphony and

have a number of private violin students."

Roy Benson (BME '88) reports: "Molly has turned into the language arts guru here in Mt. Pleasant. She is the 4th grade lead language arts teacher for all district wide activities. Our oldest Aaron (21) is a senior at UNT where he will receive a degree in Creative Writing next May, his little brother Andrew (19) is a sophomore music education (voice, tenor even) major at A&M Commerce where he will begin his second year in the Select Chorale. Me, I'm beginning my eighth year at Mt. Pleasant JHS."

Melody Baggech (MM '90) received her master of music degree from WT in 1990 and her doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1998. She has been active as a performer in a variety of musical mediums including opera, oratorio, musical theatre, contemporary and improvisatory music recitals, and sacred music. Melody has sung in both operatic and concert settings in Italy and Austria, as well as the U.S. She has performed with Amarillo Opera, Rome Festival Opera, Cimarron Circuit Opera, Opera International, and the Washington Savoyards. She has been on the faculty at East Central University since 2001 and serves as opera director and assistant professor of voice. Melody and husband Alan Marshall (MM '92) currently reside in Ada, Oklahoma, with their 2-year-old daughter.

Cynthia Barlow (BM '93) works as a network administrator for the College of Fine Arts at the University of Arizona. She also plays in a professional steel band, Apocalypso (www.pankids.com), and the UA steel band (www.uasteel.org) while composing, arranging, and designing web pages in her spare time (all five minutes of it). She and her husband, Robert Thompson, celebrated their third anniversary in May 2005.

Scotty Norton (BM '99) reports: "My wife Heather and I just had twin boys Hayden and Hunter. I teach at Burnhamwood Charter School as the general and strings director in El Paso, Texas".

Ryan Thrasher (BM '01) received a master's degree in double bass performance from the Yale University School of Music in June 2004. He resides in East Lansing, Michigan where his wife Gwen Burgett Thrasher is assistant professor of percussion at Michigan State University. Currently he is studying orchestral conducting from Kenneth Kiesler at the University of Michigan.

Janae (Weddel) Dale (BM '03) sends an update: "**David (BM '02)** and I were married in June of 2003, just after my graduation. We just celebrated our second wedding anniversary. David and I are teaching band and choir respectively, at Atkins Junior High in Lubbock, TX. (Yes, we are at the same school!) We also assist our respective programs at Monterey High School.

Chris Munoz (BM '04) and **Audra Reneau (BM-MT '05)** were married on May 14, 2005. They live in Abilene.

Send Alumni Notes Info to:
tcarpenter@mail.wtamu.edu or
tdubois@mail.wtamu.edu



Nick Scales

NEW FACULTY

Nick Scales was appointed instructor of double bass and began his duties this fall. Many may remember Nick as a student at WT when he graduated in 1989 with a bachelor of music in bass performance. Since then he continued his studies at the University of North Texas where he earned his master's degree in performance in 1994. For the past ten years, Scales had been instructor of music and assistant to the director at Texas Christian University School of Music. He also has had a long and distinctive career as a free-lance double bassist in the metroplex area including a core position with the Dallas Opera.

Nick moves back to the area with wife Lori (née Sitton (BMMB '93) and daughters Lauren and Addison. Welcome home Nick!

MUSIC THERAPY

As I write this article for the Ritornello, we just completed Showcase and preparing for the regional conference. You may or may not know we celebrated 25 years of Showcase in 2005. I bet some of you remember when the Music Therapy Club was not part of the program. Thanks to all of you who made that happen!! This year we took a detour from our traditional Showcase performance. We decided to pick some songs that were #1 during the school year 25 years ago (Fall 1980 – Spring 1981). It was fun picking the songs. It brought back memories for one of us. ☺ Anyway we had one of our composition majors write us a medley using the following songs: *Lady* performed by Kenny Rogers, *9 to 5* performed by Dolly Parton, *America* performed by Neil Diamond, *The Rose* performed by Bette Midler, and *Celebration* performed by Kool and the Gang. I think the audience liked what we did (at least we all hope).

We are taking a handful of students to Oklahoma City for the regional conference. There is a massive choir and Amarillo Symphony production Saturday night that involves many of our students. Those of us going are excited because we have not been in a number of years. Conference has conflicted with Showcase for several years. But not this year!

The program continues to grow. This year we are having a big turn over. We will have 6 students in internships between May 2006 and May 2006. They will probably be interning in places like New Jersey, Maryland, Kansas, and Texas. We have three students completing the coursework in the stated "4 years" and actually one will finish the course work this fall in 3 _ years (Wow!!). As some leave, we anticipate the excitement for upcoming years. We continue to make changes in the program to meet the current AMTA Education and Clinical Standards. As

we make those changes, we are excited about the current freshman, the incoming students, and the potential internship sites we are developing. You are a big part of our past and our future. I really appreciate all you do for the program here at WTAMU.

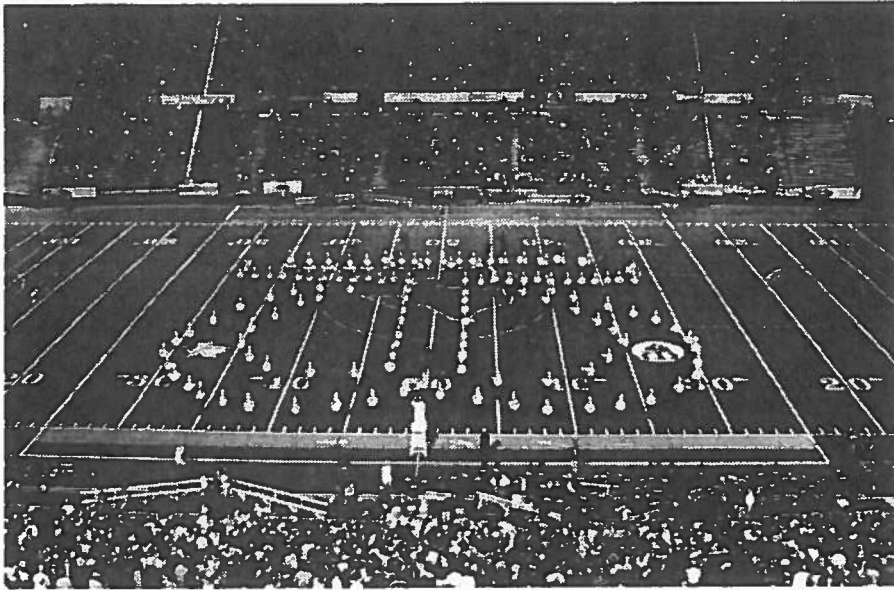
HSQ

The Harrington String Quartet spent the summer as the quartet-in-residence at the Interlochen Arts Camp, an internationally renowned six-week festival for young musicians through high school age. This new position marked the beginning of a new chamber music program in the IAC curriculum that the HSQ helped to develop. The members of the quartet taught private lessons, coached student string quartets, and conducted weekly masterclasses. The HSQ also performed twice during the summer camp, Beethoven's Opus 133, "Grosse Fuge," and Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor, with Canadian pianist, Arthur Rowe.

Also this summer, the HSQ traveled to Wichita, KS to perform and teach at Chamber Music at the Barn, a summer concert series and chamber music festival for high school musicians. The weeklong residency included 3 performances, chamber music coaching, and outreach programs, including a presentation for a teen intervention counseling center.

The 24th season of the Harrington Quartet is already underway - the first subscription concert was performed on September 29, 2005 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. There the quartet performed Mozart's Adagio and Fugue, K546, and Beethoven String Quartet Opus 59, No. 1. The quartet is currently working on a commercial recording project, recording all of the string quartet works by Daniel McCarthy, Professor of Theory and Composition at the University of Akron.

This is the second year of the WTAMU String Quartet Scholarship Program. This year's recipients are: Mathias Arambula and Yesenia Campos, violins; Irma-Esther Arambula, viola; and Guillermo Teniente, cello. The student quartet scholarship program has sparked so much interest with the string students at WT that three more chamber music groups have formed!



BANDS

This fall, the West Texas A&M Marching Band has performed before record-setting crowds at Kimbrough Memorial Stadium in Canyon. The 2005 WTAMU Homecoming drew a crowd of 23,293 fans, an all-time record attendance to watch the undefeated Buffalo football team. In fact, the Buffs are setting records for attendance in Division II throughout the nation. With one game remaining, currently the team has a record of 8-1 and will most likely be in the playoffs. The Buffalo Marching Band has enjoyed performing before the record-setting crowds, and we expect to gain new members in future years due to this exposure. In addition to our five home football games, the band traveled to Wichita Falls on October 1st to participate at the WTAMU vs. Midwestern University football game. We have also marched in two parades.

At this writing, the Concert and Symphonic Bands are getting ready to take the stage in Northen Hall for our December 4th concert. The Symphonic Band will tour through the Houston area this year on February 6-8.

Soloist for the tour will be Daniel Loudenback, performing *Fantasia for Alto Saxophone and Band* by Claude T. Smith. The band will also be performing Overture from *The Bartered Bride* by Bedrich Smetana/Garner, *Lincolnshire Posy* by Percy Aldridge Grainger, *The Young Prince and Princess* and *Festival at*

Bagdad by Rimsky-Korsakow/Hindsley, and *Redline Tango* by John Mackey. We hope to see all of our friends living in the Houston area at one of our concert sites this spring.



DR. MOORE WRITES HIS BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Dudley Moore is making available to friends a book that is the story of his life. The book is titled *Let's Get It Done!* Dr. Moore recounts fascinating stories of a lifetime that encompassed hard times during the Great Depression when his parents sent him to live with relatives because they couldn't afford food for the family, his experiences working and sailing on the Great Lakes and many

other life-changing events. Clearly evident is a deep love of family, medicine, friends, music and hard work. Dr. Moore and the *Fabulous Five* have contributed close to one hundred thousand dollars for endowed music scholarships over the last two decades. He will be donating all of the profits from his book sales to the WTAMU Band. Dr. Moore's book will be on sale at the WTAMU Bookstore, and in the band office, Fine Arts 210. The books are priced at \$20.00 and there will be an additional \$2.00 for shipping and handling if ordered from the band office.

Towards the end of Dr. Gary Garner's tenure as director of band and orchestra at WTAMU, the Symphonic Band recorded several pieces written by composer Bernard Hoffer. Recently, the compact disc recording of Bernard Hoffer's music was released. Those of you that performed on the recording of *St. Lucia Morning*, *Saxophone Concerto* and *Solti* will receive a free CD for your efforts. It is a great recording and is well worth the wait. All of you that performed on the CD will want to receive your free recording. Please send me your current mailing address, and we will send you your free CD at no charge. My email address at

WTAMU is dlefevre@mail.wtamu.edu

I look forward to seeing our friends and alums in the Houston area this spring. Thank you for your generous support and unyielding loyalty to our music programs at West Texas A&M University.

CHORALE ACTIVITIES

The WT choirs have had an exciting semester:

It started off with the first annual Texas Panhandle High School Honor Choirback on September 10. Our clinician was the internationally acclaimed conductor and composer Dr. Z. Randall Stroope from the University of Nebraska, Omaha. The event was very successful and over 100 area high school students participated. We look forward to establishing this as a yearly tradition at WT.

The Chorale was invited to open this year's All Region Choir concert at Northen Recital Hall on Saturday,

November 5. This is an exciting opportunity as it affords us the opportunity to perform for the area's best singers as well as their directors and parents.

The fall concert was a great success. The repertoire was particularly challenging for this concert, and each ensemble did exceptionally well. Collegiate Choir performed Mozart's Dixit Dominus and Magnificat, K. 193. Soloists from the choir were Kelli Graham, soprano; Kip White, tenor; and Adam Zielinski, bass. They closed with Bob Chilcott's arrangement of "Were You There." Chamber Singers featured works of Hans Leo Hassler and Michael Haydn. The Chorale's entire set (as well as Chamber Singers') was unaccompanied, with music by John Tavener, Lloyd Pfautsch, and Rosephanye Powell as well as music from Finland and Venezuela. The choirs are looking forward to their upcoming holiday events. The Renaissance Feast is on Saturday, December 3rd at 8PM and the Holiday Kick-Off Concert is on Sunday, November 20th at 3PM.

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Dr. Tina Carpenter, professor of bassoon, received a Faculty Teaching Excellence award for 2004-2005.

Dr. Robert Hansen, professor of voice, attended the International Congress of Voice Teachers in Vancouver, BC, in August, where he participated on a panel for editors and publishers of scholarly publications and newsletters. During October, he performed a series of recitals with Amarillo Operas Artist-in-Residence John Dooley. In November, he will be one of six featured artists at the Texoma NATS regional conference, performing a program of settings of the poetry of A. E. Housman. Joining him for the performance at the University of Oklahoma will be Annie Chalex and Rolando Salazar.

Dr. William Takacs, assistant professor of trumpet, has been invited to perform as a soloist with the Amarillo Symphony on May 5 and 6, 2006. He will be performing the Edward Gregson *Trumpet Concerto* in the brand new Amarillo Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts.

Dr. Susan Martin Tariq, professor of percussion, performed Eric Ewazen's *Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra* on Chamber Music Amarillo's Concerto Extraordinaire! concert, September 10th.

MUSIC THEATRE

The Departments of Music and Dance and Art, Communication and Theatre are gearing up for a splashy production of the well-loved musical, *Gypsy*. The production was intended to be a part of the festivities inaugurating our new facility, but we all know that story by now. But, as Mama Rose would say, the show must go on! And go on it will, as the LAST musical in the old Branding Iron Theatre. And it is fitting, since the musical is about the theatre, and the driving ambition it inspires in performers. *Gypsy* is a larger scale musical than any we've seen in the BIT for several years, so the excitement is running high. Perry Crafton, Robert Hansen, and Edward Truitt will take the helm as director, musical director, and choreographer, respectively. Performance dates are February 15-18 and 22-25.

DANCE

The West Texas A&M University Dance Ensemble kicked off its trip to Italy with a special preview of "Kinetic Ties" at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, June 19 in the Branding Iron Theatre. "Kinetic Ties" is the dance the group performed at the Grand Prix Italia Dance Festival June 21-27 in Cesena, Italy. The WT dancers took first place for best contemporary dance AND 2nd place for best overall choreography with their performance of KINETIC TIES!!!

OPERA

The WTAMU opera performed *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in December at area churches. We are also preparing *Die Fledermaus* for performance March 30, 31 and April 1, 2006. We will be performing in Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall this year. The new building won't be

completed in time for any productions to take place there, so we decided that we can do a fine production in the Recital Hall. Dr. Douglas Morrison will be conducting the orchestra and Dr. Cloyce Kuhnert is the stage director. We have some fabulous singers participating in the opera so make plans to come and see us!

ALUMNI HELP!

Alumni, we need your help! Sometime next fall, will be moving into a new state-of-the-art rehearsal area for the band and orchestra program. This area will be located to the west of Mary Moody Northen Hall. Inside the foyer of this building, there is an area designated for a display case. Inside this area, we would like to display photographs, artifacts and historical information concerning the band program at West Texas A&M University. In addition, we are very proud of the success of our alumni, and understand that your success reflects well on our university, therefore, we would like to showcase outstanding accomplishments by our alum's in this area. None of this will be possible without efforts from you and your friends who have shared wonderful memories in the band program at WT. Please send comments, suggestions and information to Don Lefevre by mail or by email dlefevre@mail.wtamu.edu.

TMEA EVENTS

Dr. Robert Krause will be presenting "The Oboe: How to Feel More Comfortable Having the Instrument in Your Ensemble" on Thursday February 16 at 6:30pm in Civic Center 214 AB. On Friday evening at 6:30pm,

Dr. Tina Carpenter, along with the WTAMU Bassoon Ensemble, will present "The Bassoon Bash: A Tool for Recruitment and Retention of Student Bassoonists at Multiple Levels" in Civic Center 203.

And don't forget the alumni reception at the Menger Ballroom Friday at 9:30pm. See you there!

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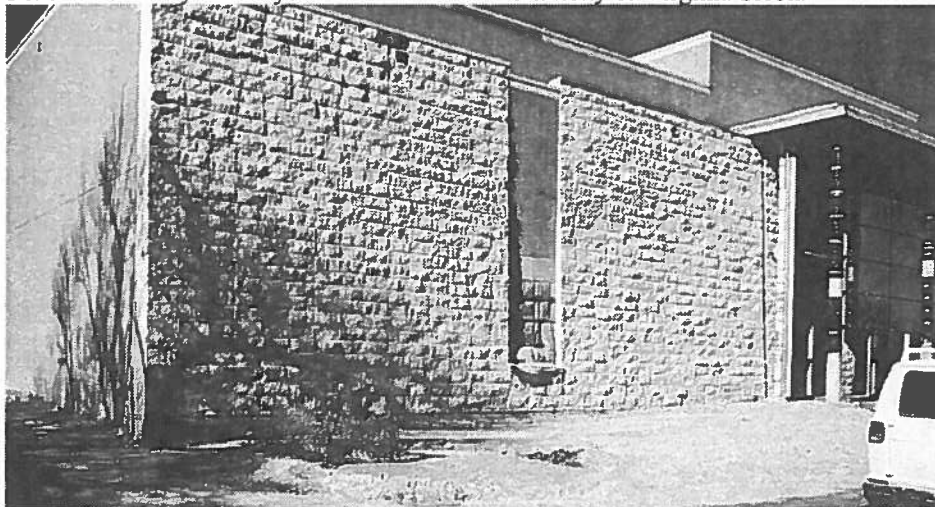
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 Clark & Barbara Wooldridge
 Nita Wooten
 Nancy Wright

In Memoriam

Dr. Gail Shannon, former WTAMU president, died January 13 in Irvine, California, where he had retired. He was 88. Dr. Shannon was president from 1982 to 1984. His bachelor's degree, from Kansas State Teacher College in Emporia, was in music education. He was a friend to the music department and upon his retirement, a scholarship which bears his and his wife's name was established. Many students have benefited from this scholarship.



This is the southeast corner of the new fine arts complex. The window is where the radio station will be located. A little further to the right will be a main entrance to the building, and it's through that entrance that one gains access to the new 150-seat recital hall. A campus beautification plan that calls for a pedestrian mall has been proposed that might also include a patio area on this east façade.



Southwest Entrance to the New Fine Arts Complex

RITORNELLO

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