

# RITORNELLO

## Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University



Volume 17, Number 1

Fall 1993

### From the Department Head's Office

"Churches welcome all denominations but most prefer tens and twenties." This is a quote I got from Bill Evans who recently read a book by Robert Burne entitled *The Fourth and by Far the Most Recent 637 Best Things Ever Said*. Since my topic for this issue is about patron contributions to support *Ritornello*, our TMEA reception in San Antonio, and the music scholarship fund, I thought it was a good way to introduce a few points about giving.

First the good news and a pat on the back for everyone. We have a wonderful group of alumni and friends who each year contribute. The following is a summary of our 1993 gifts:

Benefactor (\$500 or more) 1 gift  
Scholarship (\$200 or more) 21 gifts  
Patron (\$25 or more) 201 gifts  
Contributors (\$5 or more) 10 gifts  
A little addition shows that 232

people (more when you count the number of spouses) care enough about music at WT to make a contribution. This totaled over \$10,000 last year and was the largest single source of scholarships for music at WT. In this day when we see competition for outstanding music students escalating to a near frenzy, the support from our patrons has become crucial.

We are trying very hard to find ways to recognize our patrons. Also, we find that most of our contributors have been giving year after year. Some of the faculty have suggested that we include a small number after each name to indicate the number of years of contributing. This sounds like a good idea and our plans are to

begin doing this with the spring, 1994 edition of *Ritornello*. We have records that go back ten years; if you have been a patron for a longer period than this, we would welcome your help in extending our records.

The usual green sheet is enclosed. We hope you'll take a minute to send us a check. We will list your name(s) in the next *Ritornello* and also on the patron's page of the SHOWCASE OF MUSIC concert program.

I asked Bill Evans for a second quote to end this column. The best he could do to help me is the following (attributed to Groucho Marx). "If Noah had been truly wise, he would have swatted those two flies." Not sure what this has to do with giving to the scholarship fund, but thanks anyway, Bill.

### Band/Orchestra News

At the time of this writing the band is just about to complete marching season and the orchestra is preparing for its first concert and a tour to Oklahoma.

The orchestra has been working especially hard to prepare for the tour, which will include stops in Enid, Putnam City, and Norman. The program will include Dvorak's *Otello* Overture, Haydn's *Symphony no. 99*, *Suite no. 2* by Stravinsky, and *Tarantella in A Minor* by Bottesini with David Murray, bass soloist. The rest of the semester will be devoted to the annual Christmas Concert with the choirs on Friday, December 3.

The band also visited Oklahoma this fall. Our trip was to Durant for the game with Southeastern Oklahoma State University. We performed Friday night at the Putnam City West game, where we were hosted by WT

alum Dr. Buzzy Green, Coordinator of Instrumental Music for the Putnam City school district. The bands will complete the semester with concerts on December 5 and 7 with the Concert and symphonic Bands, respectively.

### Dance

The dance ensemble has another full fall semester. It started in August with two new contemporary ballets choreographed by guest artist Kay Braden. Ms. Braden was brought to us by Lone Star Ballet through a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. The dance ensemble went on to participate with Amarillo Opera in its production of *Kismet*. The dance ensemble continues to represent our school and region with performances in October for the Texas Good Sams Samboree in Amarillo and for the International Beauty Show in Dallas.

In November the dance ensemble will perform with the TEXAS Musical Drama company in representing our great state at the convention of the National Tour Association in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The dancers are looking forward to performing in December with the Lone Star Ballet in that festive season treat Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*.

### TMEA Reception

Friday, 11 February  
9:30 p.m.  
Menger Hotel  
(Same place as last year.)

## Music Therapy

Music therapy has started off on the right note with 48 music therapy majors! This is very encouraging to the outlook of the field. Mrs. Estes, along with local music therapist Ameka Badgett and a student, Flora Elmore, took off for Toronto, Canada on October 27 to attend the joint convention for the National Association for Music Therapy and the American Association of Music Therapy. They brought back many ideas and information about the progress of music therapy. The WTAMU music therapy club is in full force and has set goals to raise money for the southwest regional conference which will be held in Austin in April. The club will also be raising money for the first music therapy scholarship at WTAMU, the Martha Estes Music Therapy Scholarship. The scholarship was in effect last year, Dendee Hutcherson being the first recipient.

Members of the music therapy club baked cakes for the Amarillo Early childhood Intervention Center's Halloween party. Six members also volunteered to participate in the party by running games and face painting. It was a very rewarding experience. Music therapy club will once again perform the ever popular sign song at Showcase in the spring and is currently working on selecting a song. Overall, we have had a productive semester so far and will continue to progress even further.

### Important Dates

Friday, 21 January  
Career Day, Scholarship Auditions,  
and Faculty Grand Recital

Friday, 8 April  
Showcase Concert

Saturday, 9 April  
Scholarship Auditions

Saturday, 14 May  
Scholarship Auditions

## Alumni Notes

**David Kaplan** ('55-'60 faculty) was recently elected as an associate composer in the Canadian Music Centre. This means that in the future all of his works will be available through the Centre for performance or study. This past June the Saskatoon Klezmer Band was featured at the local jazz festival. He writes for the group and has directed this ten-member bunch for some years. Last year he was musical director again for the Saskatoon Opera Association, this time a series of Gilbert and Sullivan *Gondolier* performances. He is also involved with several composition projects and is finishing a book dealing with the history of the Saskatchewan Music Education Association. Currently, he is completing advisory duties with ten graduate students, master's and doctoral, and in the fall is teaching a correspondence course in music appreciation that he wrote for the University of Saskatchewan.

**Bryan Burton** (BME '71) recently had his book, *Moving Within the Circle: Contemporary Native American Music and Dance*, published. Two other books, *Children's Songs and Games of Japan* and *Music of the Chiricahua Apache*, are in progress. He continues to present many workshops: two sessions at the eastern division of MENC in March 1993; Orff Schulwerk Ethnic Workshop on Native American Music; a session at Colloquium for Teachers of Elementary Music Methods in July 1993; an instrumental literature workshop with Quincy Hilliard and a lecture/demonstration at the International Kodály Society Conference in August. In August he'll spend two weeks on the Crow Reservation in Montana working for the Smithsonian Institute as a researcher. This fall he has two conferences scheduled with the Vermont MEA and the Virginia MEA. Currently he is Associate Professor of Music Education at West Chester University.

**Rodney Miller** (BM '74) and his wife, mezzo-soprano Pina Mozzani, were in China this summer at the invitation of China Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where they held two weeks of master-classes with the conservatory's advanced opera students. Besides the master classes, they performed two concerts of American

vocal music. An additional concert was held in Tianjin at the invitation of the conservatory there. This was Miller's second trip to China. In July he also traveled to Romania for the Constanta Festival of Romanian and American Music. Besides conducting master classes in American Musical Theater with Hyperion University, Miller sang two concerts with the Constanta Symphony Orchestra and a concert version of *Hello Dolly* with the opera company. He will be returning next year to sing Don Basilio in the premier of Rossini's *Barber of Seville* and will perform the first fully staged *Hello Dolly*, with his wife as Dolly, in the form iron curtain country. His book, *The Institutionalization of Music* is being published this fall. An Associate Professor at New York University, Miller is currently the Director of Vocal Studies in the Music Department.

**Sheryl Anderson** (BM '75) is launched on a new career as talent agent, succeeding in placing actors in TV commercials and in films shot in this area. Recently she cast extras/actors of *Occhio Pinocchio*, an Italian romantic comedy. Producers think downtown Happy and environs look like Italy.

**Barbara Hrehor** (BME '78) continues to teach grammar and composition at Sam Houston State in Huntsville. In a recent letter she writes "Music remains a lively avocation and ruling passion."

**Michael Roberts** (BME '78, MA '82) has been selected as one of 55 instrumentalists from across the state to participate in the first Oklahoma Baptist Symphony. He is a member of the Sunset Lane Baptist in Guymon. The orchestra's concerts will include sacred, spiritual, classical, and patriotic selections.

**Laurencio Arroyo** (BME '79) is in his fourth year at Midlothian MS and also assists at the high school. In 1987 he married Monica, a teacher of special education. They are expecting their first child in June. After graduating from WTAMU, Laurencio taught at Greenville ISD for nine years and then was at Sweeny HS for two years. Eric Wilson, who filled in for WT saxophone faculty member Don Lefevre one year, was one of Laurencio's students.

**Brad Garner** (BME, MA '79) isn't easy to keep up with. Last May he performed as flute soloist with the Moscow Russian National Radio Orchestra. He was the first American flutist to play in Russia's famed Tchaikovsky Hall.

**DeAnn Holmes Smith** (BMT '80) has a boy baby to go with their young girl and has commenced work on certification as an occupational therapist to go with the MS in clinical psychology and the RMT earned at WT.

**Randy Lackey** (BM '81) works in Houston as a systems administrator for Santa Fe Energy Resources while keeping up with his music as a church pianist. He and wife, Kimberly (BBE '81) are the proud parents of David Alexander, 5, and John Benjamin born May 1993.

**Jim** (BME '81) & **Alice Loving** (BME '81) **Cordani** are now in Corpus Christi where Jim is in the insurance business with Alice's father and Alice is teaching at the elementary level in CCISD. Their first child, Lauren Michelle, was born in February 1993.

**Molly Darden Sizer** (BM '83) lives with husband, Michael, daughter Melody Luann (born Jan. '93) and dog Gumbo in the San Francisco Bay area. She is freelancing while Michael is an air traffic controller and plays gigs on the side.

**Rebecca Reese Dawson** (MM '84) married last summer. She also has a new job as Director of Choral Activities at the University of Akron in Ohio and as the chorus director for the Akron Symphony Chorus.

**Tico Cook** (BFA '86, MA '91) is still aboard the Viking through the end of January.

**Kay (Garner) Shurtleff** (BME '87) thought we had lost her address, and so she wrote a nice letter with lots of information. Kay's teaching 7th-grade English in the Garland ISD. Her husband, Kevin, is a veterinarian in Mesquite. They have Dallas Symphony season tickets close to Trent Ballew, who's getting married in April. Martha Gundelfinger is also getting married in April to someone named Matt Maroney. Martha still works for ASCAP.

**Sheri Scales Neubauer** (BM '88, MM '91) had a remarkable summer, performing as principal second violin with the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, CO, which played when Pope John

Paul II visited Denver. She has been performing with the Tulsa Symphony.

**Diane Syrcle** (BM '89) is a teaching fellow at University of North Texas. She performed Cavalliera Rusticana with the Shreveport Opera and a grant allows her to work with the Dallas Opera.

**Diane Hernandez-Duran** (BME '90) begins her third year in the Rio Grande Valley teaching at Raymondville alongside **Ed Segreto** (BME '90). Last December Diane married Adrian Duran who is a Corporal in the Marines and is pursuing a criminal justice degree at UT-Pan American.

**Kirsten Nelson** (BM '92) is in her second year of graduate study in bassoon performance at the University of Georgia. As a music theory graduate assistant, she teaches one section of freshman ear training/sight singing and conducts freshman small group discussion sessions. She also grades sophomore part writing. She is principal bassoonist in the orchestra, new music ensemble, and the graduate woodwind quintet. All three of those groups are touring ensembles.

**Matt Proulx** (BME '92) is in his second year as Choral Director at J. Frank Dobie HS in Houston. He and wife, Donna, are expecting a baby this fall.

**John Paul Mauldin** (BFA '92) took off happily for New York City to do some dancing there. His BFA was earned over about 15 years' time, taking courses and dancing in all of the dance ensembles. This past year he was an assistant to Mr. Hess. He bid a fond farewell to TEXAS in August.

**Lara Flanders** (BMT '93) completed her internship at the Cleveland Music School Settlement in Cleveland, OH, then married Brad Bledsoe in August. He will soon complete degree requirements for a BM and also a BME. She is working for the Amarillo ISD at Lamar Elementary; Pampa, Dumas, Perryton ISDs; the Amarillo Speech, Hearing and Language Center' and the Pavilion.

## In Memoriam

**Frances Usury Bright Ritchie** (BS '40, MA '42) died in San Jose, CA, last July. A native of Canyon, she graduated from West Texas State College, then was piano TA as a graduate student. In 1944 she married Houston Bright, director of WT choirs and composer-in-residence,

and continued teaching piano locally. After his death in 1971, she moved to California and married Glen Ritchie. Burial was in Dreamland Cemetery, Canyon, with Dr. Joe Findley, professor emeritus, officiating. Survivors include her mother Zula Usury of Bowie, a brother, Weldon Bright of Sedona, AZ, and a stepson. Memorial gifts can be made to Friends of Fine Arts at WTAMU in memory of Frances and Houston Bright.

## Meadows Guest Artists

Two of the five Meadows guest artists for this year were on campus in the fall semester, violinist Dmitri Berlinsky and jazz drummer Ed Soph. The violin/piano duo Dmitri Berlinsky and Svetlana Gorokhovich were both educated in Russian schools for the gifted. Their brilliant and communicative program included works of Schnittke, Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Ravel, and Saint-Saëns. In addition to his clinic Ed Soph performed with the WTAMU Jazz Band and in a Jazz Combo with Dave Ritter, trumpet, James Garner, piano, and Lee Allen, bass.

In the spring semester there will be recitals and master classes by clarinetist Todd Palmer, English pianist Graham Scott, and bassist Diana Gannett.

## Elsa Porter Scholarship

Elsa Porter ('56-'89 faculty) has given a \$5,000 endowment to the West Texas A&M University Foundation to fund the Elsa Porter Applied Voice Scholarship.

She holds degrees from Texas Christian University and the University of Oklahoma, and she has studied voice with Dame Eva Turner of Covent Garden in London, with Akse! Schlotz of the University of Colorado, and with Tito Gobbi at an opera workshop in Florence, Italy.

Ms. Porter, who has supported the performing arts at WT by contributing about \$45,000 to its programs over the years, was in the first class of retired WT faculty members to receive the rank of professor emeritus in 1992. In 1989, she received the Golden Nail Award.

The first recipient of the Elsa Porter Applied Voice Scholarship will be named for the fall semester.





**1993 SHOWCASE PICTURES**

## The Master Series

This is a year abundant in master classes. The Meadows artists combine with Amarillo Symphony soloists for the Master Series, including pianist Jerome Lowenthal, violinist Dmitri Berlinsky, violinist Dylana Jenson, jazz drummer Ed Soph, cellist Steven Doane, oboist Wayne Rapier, soprano Christine Brewer, pianist Graham Scott, conductor Adrian Gnam, bassist Diana Gannett, soprano Anne Achenbach, and baritone Samuel Mungo!

## Opera/Musical Theatre

The Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop hit the boards running this fall, joining forces once again with the Branding Iron Theatre, to produce Jerry Herman's rollicking musical comedy, *Mame*. Senior Music Therapy major Shelley St. Clair headed the large cast that also featured music majors Ron Loyd, Pam Parks, Amy Burns, Michelle Capes, Sean Warley, Jessica Boyd, Amey Szanto, Troy Larson and musical theatre majors Chris Lusk and Eric Hall, with a large supporting cast of both music and theatre majors. The spring opera production will be an American work, Robert Ward's setting of Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*. The hauntingly beautiful music of the opera captures the drama of the Salem witchcraft trials in a stirring and poignant way.

## Faculty Footnotes

Joe Cox traveled to Brownsville, Texas, to give brass clinics at Pace, Hamm, Porter, and Riviera High Schools. Alumnus John Reiman is teaching at Pace.

David Murray released his debut CD last May and it has been distributed in the US, Canada, and Europe. It contains music of Telemann, Copland, Mendelssohn, Kodaly, and Bottesini, most of which has not been recorded by a bassist before. It's available at Hastings in Amarillo and the WT bookstore. David has also been contacted by *STRAD*, the string magazine, for a picture that will accompany a review of his CD.

In May David and Tina Carpenter traveled to the east coast and eastern Canada, giving concerts in

North Carolina, New York City, Halifax, and Ontario. Duos by Albert Roussel and Allan Blank were featured and these duos were repeated on David's recital at the International Society of Bassists Convention at Interlochen in early July, where David also presented a master class. The Blank duo, which was written for Tina and David, was presented at the International Double Reed Society Convention in Minneapolis in late July.

Robert Hansen has been elected vice president of the National Opera Association. He will be assuming responsibility for the program activities of the organization which serves opera/musical theatre educators in universities, conservatories, and opera companies world wide. On the performing front, he sang the tenor lead, Count Almaviva, in Amarillo Opera's spring production of *The Barber of Seville*.

Dawn Harms has been music director of the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra as it has grown from 70 to 90 members. The Youth Orchestra had their opening concert November 7, and will play a concert in Albuquerque in March before finishing their season in May with the Haydn "Farewell" Symphony. Also during the past year Dawn Harms played with the New Zealand String Quartet as first violinist and gave a master class at the University of Wellington, New Zealand. In addition she has completed her fifth season as a first violinist in the Sante Fe Opera Orchestra.

Last spring George Biffle was invited to clinic several high school and junior high school choral groups: Amarillo Tascosa High School, Amarillo Caprock High School, Canyon Randall High School, Lubbock High School, Lubbock Monterey High School, Clovis High School, Spearman High School, Canyon Valley View Jr. High School, Amarillo Horace Mann Junior High School, Amarillo Austin Jr. High School. In addition, the Choral Department held an All State Choral Workshop for area All State Candidates with over 100 participants and had its first All State Choir Camp with 67 students attending. Both Sessions will be repeated this year. Dr. Biffle appeared as choral consultant for the Lubbock Independent School District's Fall In-Service Workshop and made recruiting trips to Amarillo High School, Amarillo Palo Duro High School, Pampa High School, Clovis

High School, and Lefors High School. He hosted a choral directors workshop during the summer with guest Dr. Don Moses of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, attended the Texas Choral Directors Convention and Texas Music Educators Conventions in San Antonio, and was guest conductor for the Apollo Music Festival in Le Mars, Iowa.

Harry Haines gave clinics at Oklahoma Bandmasters and at Texas Bandmasters Conventions on his new band method, *Rhythm Master*.

Amy Brandfonbrener was invited to perform at the International Viola Congress at Northwestern University.

Emanuel Lopez played with Craftsbury Chamber players in Vermont.

John Meisner and Emanuel Lopez both gave faculty recitals in the fall semester. The Harrington String Quartet will be performing in New York City on November 29, at Merkin Hall. The program will include a New York premiere of Martin Bresnick's Third Quartet.

Bill Evans and Joe Nelson collaborated on *Sight Reading for Band, Vol. II*, published by Southern Music Inc., in the Spring 1993, and Joe Nelson completed a new piece for band, *Canto e Caccia*, first performance by the 1993 Director's Band, WTAMU Band Camp.

Stanley Potter and WTAMU alumnus Wang Min, now in Los Angeles, are planning the first WTAMU International Piano Seminar to be held on campus March 4-10, 1994.

Neil Hess was honored to be guest artist at the meeting of the Southern Association of Teachers of Dancing in Nashville where he gave master classes for both teachers and students while choreographing four new dances. This fall Mr. Hess was the choreographer for the Amarillo Opera production of *Kismet*, and in addition to his regular duties as director of the Lone Star Ballet, he is designing new sets for the Lone Star's production of the Nutcracker ballet.

## GEORGE WINSTON ON CAMPUS!

Through happenstance the Amarillo Civic center was unavailable for a concert February 18, 1994; so George Winston will be performing on the WTAMU campus in Northern Recital Hall that Friday at 8 PM. Tickets can be bought at the JBK Student Center Information Desk, 656-2394 and at Randy's Music Mart and Pro Audio in Amarillo, 2600 Paramount, 358-0131. Seating is limited for this one performance only.



### 1993-94 Music Faculty

Seated, left to right: Sue Park, Dean, Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities; George Biffle, choir director; Joe Ella Cansler, voice; Cloyce Beard-Stradley, voice; Susan Martin, percussion; Bill Evans, piano; Amy Brandfonbrener, viola; David Murray, double bass; Thom Robertson, organ/harpsichord; Donna Flatt, department secretary; Sally Turk, flute and music business; Barbara Wooldridge, band secretary; Don Lefevre, assistant band director and saxophone.

Back row, left to right: Harry Haines, Head, Department of Music and Dance; Ted DuBois, music history; Dave Ritter, trumpet and jazz band; Ron Lemon, horn; Joe Cox, low brass; Gerald Heierman, clarinet; Bob Hansen, voice and director of opera/musical workshop; Kim Storey, music librarian and band camp secretary; Stanley Potter, piano; Margaret Forrest, voice and music education; Dawn Harms, violin; Tina Carpenter, bassoon; Robert Krause, oboe and freshman adviser; Jim Shaw, recruiting assistant; Crystal Campbell, dance GA; Gary Garner, band and orchestra director.

Not pictured: Mary Helen Demus, piano; Neil Hess, dance; Fred Johnson, guitar; Emmanuel Lopez, cello; John Meisner, violin; Martha Estes, music therapy, Lee Allen, choir GA; Candi Irwin, band GA; Joe Pruitt, band GA; Doug Storey, clarinet (working on doctorate during the fall semester).

# RITORNELLO

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