

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

Volume 28, Number 2

Spring 2005

New Building to Open in ~~Spring 2005~~ ~~Fall 2005~~ Spring 2006 (We Hope!)

Third time is the charm, or so the saying goes. The latest rumor we are now spreading states that we will be in the new facility for the spring semester. Originally, plans were that the construction would be finished in the spring of 2005. We were thinking April. Sometime in the fall semester that date was pushed back to July 15, 2005. In January of this year, 47 bad weather days were added to July 15. We have had some strange weather. In order for the workers to pour concrete, they had to have three days of dry weather. We would get two days and then we would get rain. Or we would have one dry day, one wet, two dry, one wet, two and a half dry, and then some rain. Today (May 2) it snowed, so very little was done because of safety issues. All the troughs that have been constructed for foundations will have to be pumped. It's a real mess here. Meanwhile, we're waiting patiently.

But we're not the only ones having trouble. The Amarillo Globe-News Performing Arts Center, immediately to the west of the Civic Center, was supposed to open on October 15. The date now has been pushed back to January 21, 2006.

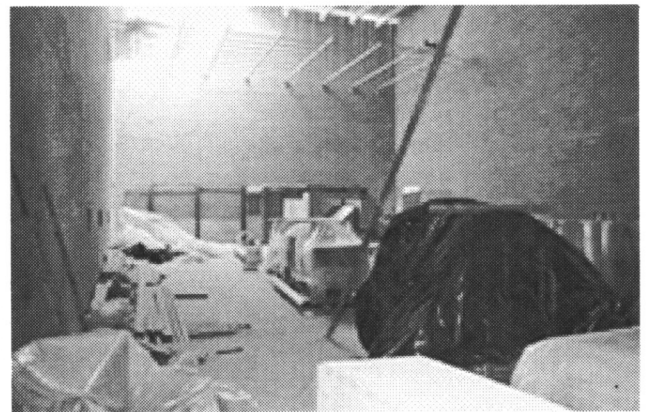
We're not sure when or how the big move will happen, but we'll gladly deal with it when it does. As construction nears completion, I'm sure we'll be given more details. For right now, we can watch the corn grow (although the Fine Arts Complex on the east side of Northen is really beginning to take shape; and the west side today is dirt with a two- or three-inch layer of mud icing, mostly contained within some concrete outlines, but some of the icing has run over the edge so that we can track it into the buildings or wherever we travel).

We've been told that faculty in the classroom center will be moving into the Fine Arts Building after our move while the entire CC undergoes remodeling, which will be an 18-month project. (That is, if the weather is nice!) I'm glad that someone else will be able to enjoy the green-tiles that adorn the hallway walls and the lovely lime-colored linoleum.

The university is planning the open house for Fine Arts Complex and the Northen west wing instrumental rehearsal area and percussion studios. The grand opening is scheduled

for **Friday, February 24.**

Mark that date on your calendar. I believe if enough people will write it down, it will happen. It's something I learned from Peter Pan. And if you can't make it on that date, tell us when you can and we'll show you around.



The new recital hall looking from the stage to the audience.



And now the other way.

ALUMNI NOTES

JUDY (KNIGHT) (BM '76, MA '79) and GORDON HART (BM '75, MA '79) taught elementary music and band in Clovis, NM, for 25 years before moving to Arlington, TX, in 2001. Gordon is a band director at Martin High School and Judy teaches at Beckham Elementary. Their children have followed in their footsteps.

DONNA BOGAN (BME '76, MA '02) is still in Alice, TX. She is semi-retired now, playing in Bryce Taylor's Corpus Christi Wind Symphony, raising two beagles and three cats. She is also serving as coordinator for Thom Stacy's English Horn seminar in California for the third year.

KATHY CUNNINGHAM (BM '77) had an exhibit of paintings, which she called "Journey of Imagination," on display at one of the branches of the Chicago Public Library from December through February.

LAURENCIO ARROYO (BME '79) is a band director at Midlothian Middle School in Midlothian, TX. He has been married to Monica Arroyo for 17 years. They have one child, 10-year-old Laurence James, and 26 years of teaching under his belt.

GARY DOHERTY (BME '79) is currently band director at Midland High School where he has been for the past eight years. "I have been active as a composer and arranger as well as teaching the high school band. On Sundays I get to work with the First Baptist Church orchestra program. We would love to hear from 'old' family friends." wgdoherly@aol.com

JANET (CLAYPOOLE) DOHERTY (BME '79) is currently teaching at San Jacinto Junior High as the assistant band director in Midland. She has a horn studio of great students from beginner to high school levels. Janet and Gary will celebrate their 25th anniversary together this spring. Jason is finishing up at the Curtis Institute of Music and Micah is a junior at Midland High School playing bassoon in the band and orchestra.

BRIDGET BAILEY WALKER (BME '79) is working at Strack

Intermediate School in Klein, TX, a post she's held for the last 14 years. She is the band director and absolutely loves the job! She has an incredible assistant and the kids are fantastic!

JULIE JOHNSON ANDREWS (BM '80) is owner of "Purr Buddies" cat sitting service in Lubbock. She is married to **JAMES ANDREWS (BME '68, MA '73)**. After 20 years of teaching, James is now an executive at Jent's House of Music in Lubbock and still active as a composer with 20 published compositions.

KEITH MCDANIEL (BME '81, MA '82) returned to teaching after a two-year hiatus and is director at First Baptist Christian Academy in Pasadena. He is also teaching privately in Tombal and Spring on bassoon, percussion, trombone, violin, viola, drum set, alto sax, clarinet, and French horn. Keith is looking to get back to a full-time position. Keith is still doing arranging for various media. He currently has six pieces on the PML list and a total of 15 pieces and a book, all published by RBC.

GLORIA LEE PLEYER MCDANIEL (BMT '82) continues in her 23rd year as a music therapist in Klein ISD. Over the years, she has held several music therapy offices, both locally and regionally. She currently has an intern (second in a row) and has three applicants for next year. Keith and Gloria recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Children include: Kevin, 20, bassoonist in the Army Band; Kenneth, a junior; and Kathryn, a freshman percussionist at Klein Collins High School.

NANCY (RUTHERFORD) DAVIS (BM '85) is teaching K-6 at Green Acres Elementary School in Dumas, TX. She also teaches private piano lessons and is church pianist at Calvary Baptist Church. She is married with two children.

KATHY (BAKER) KUHN (BME '86) is teaching at Noel and Pease Elementary School in Odessa. She is also organist of First Presbyterian Church in Odessa. She has been happily married to husband David who "greatly helps Kathy get her act

together" by serving as "CEO of Domestic Operations."

ANTHONY (BME '87) and JANIE (BAIRD) (BME '87) SANCHEZ are still in El Paso. Janie is Anthony's assistant band director for the last five years at Lincoln Middle School. Janie also plays principal oboe in the El Paso Symphony and El Paso Opera. They have children, Patrick, age 14, and Nicole, age 10. Mom **Nadina Baird Oney** lives in nearby Las Cruces, NM. **Leslie** and **Russ Blanchard** live in Houston where Russ is a bank manager and Leslie teaches elementary music and plays the harp.

MICHAEL KEIG (BME '90, MA '93) and LESLIE (GERRARD) KEIG (BME '89) are still in Klein, TX. Mike is in his 15th year as band director in Klein ISD, currently associate director at Klein Collins High School and plays in the NFL Houston Texans Bullpen Pep Band. Leslie is getting back into teaching after five years off with the children. She's teaching pre-school music and working on Kodaly certification. The Keig kids are Madeline, age six, Olivia, age three and a half, and Paige, one and a half.

DAVID SORGI (BM '90, MM '91) and FAWN (HAUSMAN) (BME '96) SORGI are still in the metroplex area. David is currently an Oracle Administrator at Texas Instruments in Dallas and Fawn is currently teaching orchestra in The Colony. "We have been happily married for seven years and are now living in Plano. We are the happy parents of two puppies!"

RALPH SANDERS (BME '92) is choral director at Westfield High School in Spring ISD where he lives with wife Valerie and children, Tristan, age ten, and Emma, age five.

ANGELA MUNOZ BLACKSTEIN (BM '93, MA '94) is an associate band director at Conroe High School in Conroe, TX. Her husband Craig is also a band director at Cryar Intermediate in Conroe. They have two children, Thomas, 3, and Drew, 6 months.

TONY LUCAS (BM '95, MA '98) is teaching at Duane Intermediate School.

JEANETTE KOMINCZAK (BM '97) lives in Houston and is teaching at Beckendorff Junior High in Katy.

GEOFFREY ELSNER (BM '98, MM '99) is currently head director at Alamo Junior High School in Midland, TX. He also assists with percussion studies at Lee High School. He plays in the Midland/Odessa Symphony and arranges clinics in area percussion studios.

GREG HART (BM '99) is teaching at Shoemaker High School and is married to Amiee (Phillips).

KATHERINE (PLOCK) JONES (BMT '99) is a full time music therapist in El Paso ISD and is married to Damien.

LAUREN OGDEN (BM '99) is living in El Paso and started a music program at a public charter high school for at-risk students. She's teaching music history, beginner piano and guitar, and applied music. This spring she will add piano accompanist to the list. Last year she was in Juarez, Mexico, building houses and working with the children in orphanages.

ARTHUR PLOTTS (BM '99) and wife Courtney celebrated the arrival on September 21, 2004, of twin girls, Clara and Charlotte.

COREY BLACK (BM '00) lives in Florida with his wife, dog, and boat. He runs a group travel business. www.capitolmusicfest.com

FREDDY CHAVEZ (BM '00) is at Midlothian High School in Midlothian, TX.

GREG and KELLY (MOWRY)(BM '00) MONTGOMERY (BM '96, MM '97) are the proud parents of Jack Douglas Montgomery, born June 5, 2004. Kelly is teaching at Crockett Middle School and Greg is still at Bowie Middle School in Amarillo.

JASON BRENTS (BM '00, MM '01) lives in Crane and teaches at Crane Middle School.

ROBIN CALLAHAN (BM '00) is now teaching at Wunderlich Intermediate School in the Klein ISD.

CHRISTINA CHASE (BM '01) is a vocal music specialist at Carver Elementary Academy and Carver Early Childhood Academy in Amarillo ISD. She is pursuing a Master of Music with Kodaly emphasis and is already level three certified through OAKE.

CARISSA (BUIE) HAMILTON (BM '00) is head director at San Jacinto Junior High School in Midland. She married to **CLIFF HAMILTON (BA English '02)** in June 2002 and they have a full house with two dogs and one cat.

NICK MEARS (BM '01) lives in Borger and teaches at Borger High School as assistant to **KEVIN KEULHER (BME '87)**.

JULIANA RIECSS (BM '01) lives in Austin, TX and is teaching at Barton Middle School in Buda. She'll be starting graduate school this summer

KARIM HILL (BM '01) is teaching at Bowie Middle School in El Paso. He's staying out of trouble and loving his job!

KARL VEASEY (BM '01) is at Forestwood Middle School in Flower Mound, TX. June 19 is wedding day when he marries Gwendolyn Gilmore.

TAMARIE HAWKINS (BM '01) and **B. J. SAYGER (MM '03)** were married on December 11, 2004. Tamarie is now teaching at Burnet Elementary School in Odessa, and B. J. is the new band director at Bowie Junior High School in Odessa.

DAGO (BM '01) and **CARRIE (MOSELEY) GONZALES** are excited to announce that they are expecting their first baby in August. They are currently teaching in the San Angelo ISD.

TENNILLE JOHNSON (BME '02) is in her third year teaching as head orchestra director at Schindewolf Intermediate School in Klein ISD.

COURTNEY HART (BM '02) is teaching middle school band in Lewisville, TX and Brad Hart is a freshman percussion major at the University of North Texas and a third year member of the Phantom

Regiment. Courtney married **Alan Miller**, former WT student, in April 2005. He is teaching percussion in Richmond Hills

DANIEL (BM '02) and **SARAH (LODGE) (BM '04) LOUDENBACK** are now happily married! Sarah is in her first year at Goddard Junior High School and Daniel is at Midland High School.

CANDACE (RUSSELL) BAKER (BME '02) lives in Lubbock as a stay-at-home wife

EMILY PLEDGER (BM '03, MM '04) is in her first year teaching at Nimitz Junior High School in Odessa and loving it!

JORDAN HOLMES (BME '04) is assistant band director at Pampa High School.

JAMES (BM '04) and **REBECCA (SCOTT) (BM '04) CARTER** are happily married and living in Borger, TX. Becca is working at Dumas Junior High and James is at Pampa High School.

JOHN M. MCDANIEL (BM '04) is engaged to **LAUREN ROPER (BM '04)** and lives in Pearland. He's a first year teacher at Manuel Junior High School in Manuel, TX.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE ORGANISTS GONE?

Ms. Mary Ruth McCulley (WT faculty, 1955-89) sent us this list of organists that she compiled. We thought you might be interested. Thanks, Ms. McCulley.

MAX MAYSE (BME '72) - First Christian Church, Lawrence, KS, computer department, K.U. Endowment

NELDA FINLEY MAYSE - Elementary teacher (wife of Max Mayse)

ROBIN HUTTON STOUT - Overland Park, KS, conducts a pre-school choir and is a substitute teacher.



Department of Music and Dance

2005 Honors Awards

The department has several endowments that allow us to present scholarships to outstanding students following the annual honors recital for the 2005-2006 academic year. Here are the students so recognized this year.

Paula Hill Memorial Scholarship

Monica Mosier, David Lough,
Meghann Witte, Jake Feigum,
Shawna Giddings

David Ritter Trumpet Scholarship

Trey Burns

Martha Estes Music Therapy Scholarship

Amy Hochreiter (internship)
Jayme Nelson (continuing)

Elsa Porter Voice Scholarship

Sharon Grasha, Samantha Puckett,
Rachel Johnson

Royal L. Brantley Voice Scholarship

Kendra Jones

Asalie Key Price Voice Scholarship

Anna McVey

Marion and Kenneth Porter Voice/Piano Scholarship

Brittany Parks, Kristin Vaughan,
Jonathan DeLong

Hugh Sanders Vocal Music Education Scholarship

Kipland White

Houston Bright Choral Scholarship

Andrea Cruz

Mary Jane Johnson Voice Scholarship

Robert Cardwell, Sarah Fordham,
Brandy Jenkins

Ruth and George Eason Piano/Double Reeds Scholarship

Sarah Teague, Jesse Switzer

McCulley-Porter Mu Phi Epsilon Scholarship

Ashley Kiper

Amarillo Music Teachers Association Scholarship

Snow Hanada

Gail and Helen Shannon Scholarship

Kayla Minchew

Dr. Dudley Moore Scholarship

Juan Mireles, Trey Burns

Dorothy Franks Thurner Piano Scholarship

Jake Feigum (renewed; plus summer
study at the Brevard [North Carolina]
Music Camp)

Dee Anne Trotter Music Education Scholarship

Derek Harris (renewed)

Dee Anne Trotter Voice Scholarship

Karissa Intemann (renewed)

Louise and Bill Dee Dance Scholarship

Cassie Parker

Ilene Balliett Dance Scholarship

Meagan Finley

2005 West Texas String Quartet

Mattias Arambula, first violin
Yesenia Campos, second violin
Irma-Esther Arambula, viola
Guillermo Teniente, cello

Wind & Percussion Achievement Scholarships

Flute: Lyndsay Eiben,
Lindsey Railsback
Oboe: Jordan Standifer, Mary Rowley
Clarinet: Ismael Alfaro, Devin Tyler
Saxophone: Saul Caballero,
Ben Wilson
Bassoon: Ben Smith, Laura Bennett
Trumpet: Jonathan Cantu, Carlos Solis
Horn: Kim Theel, Julie Barnard
Low Brass: Nathanael Holmes,
Todd Jansa
Percussion: Amanda Harwerth,
Justin Myers

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Brantley Scholarship

Ismael Alfaro, Kevin Elliston

Service Award

James Nicholson,
Eddie Smith

Non-Sinfonian Award

Alta Striggles

Renaissance Holiday Feast Service Scholarship

Alice Anderson, Matias Arambula,
Heather Barr, Brandon Cameron,
Robert Cardwell, Andrea Cruz,
Erin Edwards, Michael Hooper,
Brandy Jenkins, Armando Pinales,
Mary Rowley, Guillermo Teniente,
Kimberli Theel

Total amount of scholarships awarded
is \$44,950.

**(Where have all the organists gone?
continued.)**

**LORNA JANSEN SCHULTZ (MA
'72)** - Community United Methodist
Church, Naperville, IL, and piano
studio, Crystal lake, IL

DAVID BOOTHE (BM '73) -

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Dallas

RICK LAND (BM '74) - St. John's

Episcopal Church, Dallas

KENDALL MOWELL (BME '80,

MM '82) - Immanuel Lutheran
Church, Temple

BESSIE ALLEN (MA '70) - retired,

Faith Covenant Church, Borger

LORENE MUNDY - substitute

organist, Radford, VA

KATHRYN WHITE REEVES -

First Baptist Church, Wellington;
retired teacher

ELLEN BEBERMEYER JACKSON (MM '81) - Chapel Hill United Methodist church, Oklahoma City, OK

REV. PATRICK CARATHERS (BME '76) - St. Hyacinth Catholic Church, Amarillo

ANN ROOT - First Presbyterian Church, Canyon

CANDY DODGEN LAND (BME '75) - math teacher Brownfield. Her husband, Randy Land, is pastor of First Baptist.

JENNIE LYNN HODGES (BM '79, MA '81) - faculty, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview

DANIEL HARP (student '85-'89) Kessler United Methodist Church, Dallas; technician with Range Organ Company

SUSAN HINRICHS - Paramount Baptist Church, Amarillo, and vocal department, Amarillo High School

BRENT IVEY (BM '88) - assistant, Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta; business department, Emory University

DENICE BLACKBURN BRIDGES (BM '87, Kodaly cert. '90) - music teacher, Wolfforth, TX

IRENE JONES - Lutheran church, Clovis suburb

MICHAEL JOHNSON (BME '80, MM '82) - Trinity Lutheran Church, Amarillo; counselor, Tascosa High School

ELLA JANE KNIGHT - First Church of Christ Scientist, Amarillo

MARY JANE KING (MA '76) - piano studio, Plainview

RESA LUSCOMBE STONE (BM '77) - St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Amarillo; music teacher AISD

LOUELLEN MEYER (BME '89, MA '90) - director of music ministries, First Presbyterian, San Angelo

DR. DONNA MARBURGER - Trinity Lutheran Church, Laramie, WY

DR. JUANELVA ROSE - music department, Tunghai University, Taiehubg, Taiwan

JANNA MILLS JOHNSON (BM '73) - piano studio, Amarillo

RAENELL ROBERTS MCDONOUGH (BME '84, MA '91) - St. Paul United Methodist Church, Amarillo; staff, music department, Amarillo College

MARGARET SKINNER - First United Methodist Church, Canyon

KENNY SHORE (BME '84, MA '91) - First Christian Church, Dumas; choral department, Dumas High School

MARY HASSE SCHWAB - Pampa; husband Robert, daughters Linda and Sarah

SHYRIE FOSTER DYESS (BME '70) - Hobbs, NM; wife of Rev. Todd Dyess, First United Methodist Church

JOAN WALLACE HUDGINS (BS '67) - substitute organist, San Antonio

STEVE WILLIAMS (MM '85) - organist, St. Petronille Catholic Church, Glen Ellyn, IL

LOIS SCHEER LAUBEN - retired organist and teacher, Canadian, Hereford, now living in Amarillo

IN MEMORIAM

THERON CLIFFORD ROSE (BME '91) age 36 years old passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2005, at his residence. Theron was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. He graduated from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, where he received both his master's and bachelor's degree in music, he also attended Texas A&M in College Station.

Theron was a band director in Lago Vista I.S.D. where he taught band and music. His bands received superior ratings in UIL competition and festivals throughout the state.

Theron was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army and served in the Army Reserve and ROTC at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas.

He is survived by his wife: Carol Armendariz Rose of Leander, Texas; one son: Thomas E. Rose of Leander, Texas; father: Terry Rose of Corpus Christi, Texas; mother: Tommy Rose of Corpus Christi, Texas; mother- and father-in-law: Manuela and Alfredo Armendariz Sr. of Odessa, Texas; one brother-in-law: Alfredo (Sandra) Armendariz Jr. of Fort Worth, Texas.

The funeral service was Thursday, March 10, 2005, at 10:00 am at Memory Gardens Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Memory Gardens Cemetery.

**Send alumni notes info to
tcarpenter@mail.wtamu.edu**

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 this year. I bet some of you remember when the Music Therapy Club was not part of the program. We are now and 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 this May and next May. 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 ½ 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 in-coming Fall 2005 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. Have a good summer.

Edward Kahler

BANDS

This spring has been a very exciting time for the WTAMU Symphonic Band. Our tour to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area was a wonderful opportunity for students and directors of that area to hear what we have to offer at WTAMU. It was a special treat for our faculty and students to visit with the alumni that attended the concerts in the area. John Reimund was our feature soloist on the tour. He dazzled each and every audience. While on the tour we were able to present seven concerts and one clinic. We would like to thank the directors of Burleson, Hebron, Marcus, Coppell and Allen High Schools, with special kudos to Marcy Zoffuto and her students at Coyle Middle School.

In April, we were busy preparing performances for our instrumental band clinics and Showcase of Music Concerts. At the Showcase of Music Concert on April 1, we presented two band scholarships in Dr. Dudley Moore's name. This year's recipients were Trey Burns of Clovis, New Mexico, and John Mireles of Brady, Texas. Our instrumental band clinic and concert was a success again this year. This was the fifteenth year that we have hosted the event on the WTAMU campus. The visiting bands

were Randall High School, Clovis High School, Permian High School and Midland Lee High School. Dr. Gary Garner and I were the band clinicians for the day. In addition, our wind and percussion faculty taught master classes to each of the high schools. Dr. Garner and I had a great deal of fun working with the students.

The Concert and Symphonic Band final concerts of the year were scheduled on Wednesday, April 27, at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

The Symphonic Band performed *Entry March of the Boyars* by Johan Halvorsen, *Beautiful Colorado* by Joseph de Luca, *Grainger's Children's March: Over the Hills and Far Away*, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Paul Dukas and *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas!* by Eric Whitacre.

#1 Contemporary Jazz Artist and Contemporary Jazz Group of the 80's by *Billboard* magazine. Dave's other awards include being voted "Best Vibes Player" in both *Jazz* and *Modern Drummer* magazines. Dr. Gary Garner will be conducting the Director's Band and Mr. Russ Teweleit will direct the Faculty Jazz Band again this year. We hope to see you and your students at the camp! For more information concerning the WTAMU Band camp, please visit or website at www.wtamu.edu/academic/fah/music/bandcamp.htm. Have a great summer!

Don Lefevre



DAVE SAMUELS, guest percussionist for band camp

The WTAMU Band Camp is scheduled July 10-22. During the second week of the camp we will be featuring Guest Artist Dave Samuels. Dave Samuels has distinguished himself as the top mallet player of his generation. He received a Grammy in 2003 for "Best Latin Jazz Recording" with his group, *The Caribbean Jazz Project*. During his time with *Spyro Gyra* (1977-1994), the 5-time Grammy-nominated group was named

CHORAL ACTIVITIES

The WT choirs were engaged in many exciting projects this spring. The combined choirs are prepared for their annual performance with the Amarillo Symphony and Civic Chorus. This year's selection was Brahms' *Song of the Fates*. The WT Chorale recently returned from a tour to the Odessa-Midland area, where they performed at Permian High School, Odessa

College, Lamesa High School, and Seminole High School. At Odessa College, WT students were able to take part in a vocal master-class offered by David Corman. Professor Corman directs the voice program at Odessa College and is an internationally-acclaimed tenor. Many positive connections were made with the faculty and students of these programs.

The choral students were excited to host the Region I UIL choir contest again this year. It provided a wonderful opportunity to get to know area directors and their students. It was also a particularly valuable experience for WT students planning to teach public school.

The recruiting process continues to go well. Several students who were recruited to the various choirs as non-majors last year have since discovered that music is their primary interest and have auditioned for the voice faculty and changed their majors to music. As recruitment of incoming freshmen continues along with this sort of internal recruiting, the program will continue to increase in strength.

The final choral concert of the year was April 26, at 8 p.m. in Northen Recital Hall and featured a variety of choral styles.

ORCHESTRA

The West Texas A&M University Symphony Orchestra has had one of its busiest seasons in recent years. The orchestra opened the 2004-2005 season in September with a program featuring WT faculty member Joanna Mendoza as soloist in the Romance in F for Viola and Orchestra by Max Bruch. Also on the program were the Symphony No. 41 ("Jupiter") of Mozart, and the Second Suite from Bizet's *L'Arlesienne*.

The second concert of the season, in November, featured another of WT's wonderful music faculty, Dr. Tina Carpenter, in Gordon Jacob's Concerto for Bassoon and Strings. Schubert's Symphony No. 8 ("Unfinished"), and Tchaikovsky's brilliant orchestral showpiece *Capriccio italien* rounded out the afternoon performance.

Utilizing music from both programs, the WT Symphony Orchestra set out on 11 November for a two-day "mini-tour" in Midland-Odessa and performed for orchestra classes at both Midland and Lee High Schools and a full evening concert at Abell Junior High School. All performances were enthusiastically received, and special thanks go to Therese Simmons and Karen McAfee (a WT alum), who have built such wonderful orchestral programs there.

The old expression states "There's no rest for the wicked, and the good don't need any." This was demonstrated by the fact that the orchestra's next performance, the annual Holiday Kick-Off Concert, was presented just one week after returning from Midland. This popular program is a collaborative effort with the WT choral ensembles and their director Dr. Daniel Hall.

The spring semester has been equally demanding on our orchestral musicians at West Texas: the student soloists concert in February featured Tiffany Jackson, violin; Erin Edwards, oboe; and Michael Gibson, piano; along with Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 ("Italian"). Late March found the orchestra in the pit of the Branding Iron Theatre for two performances of Mozart's comic opera *The Marriage of Figaro* in conjunction with the WT Opera Theatre, Dr. Cloyce Kuhnert, director.

The 2004-2005 season ended on Sunday, April 24th, 3:00 pm, with an all-Beethoven program featuring WT faculty member Denise Parr-Scanlin in the Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, followed by the dramatic Symphony No. 5 in C minor.

This season has also been a very busy one for WT's director of orchestral activities, Dr. Douglas Morrison. In addition to preparing and presenting all of the WT Symphony Orchestra programs, Morrison served his first year as music director/conductor of the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra I and was featured as the first conductor in the history of Chamber Music Amarillo, conducting Mozart's Symphony No. 33 in Bb major. Dr. Morrison also visited, critiqued, and rehearsed numerous middle and high schools in the Amarillo area, and will serve as an adjudicator for the upcoming Greater Southwest Music Festival.

CALLING ALL PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE ALUMNI

As we look forward to the opening of our new facility in 2006, the WTAMU percussion studio plans to host an alumni event, inviting all ensemble alums back to participate/perform in a weekend event with rehearsals, a concert and reception. We hope to program some "old favorites" as well as several



MARRIAGE OF FIGARO cast: from left: Robert Hansen, Ben Grabber, Gareth Lee, and Armando Pinales

compositions by our own graduates. The date is not yet set, but the first step is to build an email address book of ensemble alums. So, please send us your name, years you participated in the ensemble, current phone number, mailing address and email address(es). Send the information to Susan Martin Tariq (stariq@mail.wtamu.edu)

FAREWELL TO BIT

A Farewell Salute to the Branding Iron Theatre, a celebration revue featuring past and present BIT students, was presented April 20, 21, 22 and 23* at 7:30 p.m. It was directed by Royal R. Brantley with music direction by Joe Ella Cansler

The audience enjoyed an evening of music, comedy and drama as current and former WT students celebrated the BIT's past and its upcoming move to the new fine arts complex. Inspired performances by professional and student performers honored the rich tradition of the BIT and set the stage for the opening of the new BIT in the fall of 2005.

A BIT Hall of Fame induction ceremony and an alumni reception/gathering preceded the April 23rd performance.

OPERA

Opera workshop, under the direction of Dr. Cloyce Beard Kuhnert, presented *The Marriage of Figaro* in the Branding Iron Theatre on March 22 and 23, 2005. The conductor was Dr. Douglas Morrison. The opera was a great success this year thanks to much hard work from the cast, crew, and orchestra.

The cast was as follows: Rachel Johnson (Susanna), senior vocal performance major from Paris, Kentucky; Robert Cardwell (Figaro), sophomore vocal performance major from Laredo; Samantha Puckett (Marcellina), sophomore vocal performance major from Katy; Benjamin Grabber (Bartolo), junior music education major in trumpet from Canyon; Landree Steadman (Cherubino), senior vocal performance major from Spearman; Brian Kuhnert (Count Almaviva), WTAMU graduate with an MM in 2003; Robert Hansen (Don Basilio), WTAMU voice faculty; Brandy Jenkins (Countess Almaviva), sophomore vocal performance major from Dumas; Gareth Lee (Antonio), freshman music education major from McAllen; Armando Pinales (Don Curzio), sophomore vocal performance major from Hereford;

and Katie Shipp (Barbarina), junior music business major in voice from Wheeler.

Thank you all for your continued support of the opera program at WTAMU!!

Dr. Cloyce Beard Kuhnert

ALUMNI HELP!

The new band rehearsal hall will have an area designated for a display case. Inside this case, we would like to display photographs, artifacts and historical information concerning the band program at West Texas A&M University. We would also like to showcase outstanding accomplishments by our alum's in this area. Please send comments, suggestions and information to Don Lefevre by mail or by email dlefevre@mail.wtamu.edu.

Do have an old instrument sitting around gathering dust? Consider donating it to the WT Music Department for use in the instrumental methods classes. We can give it new life in the hands of a WT music major!

RITORNELLO

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