

# RITORNELLO

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

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Spring 2006

### REMEMBERING MARTHA



**MARTHA MUNDAY**

"I've been driving around looking for this place for hours!" Every time Martha Estes came to my house, she greeted me with this remark.

Some friends of Martha gathered one evening in February to share stories and memories of Martha. Nearly everyone had a story about her challenged sense of direction. Martha circling San Antonio or Martha in San Diego here, there, and everywhere. Just the mere mention of Martha in New Orleans made everyone laugh. Coffee stained papers, little slivers of paper with notes scribbled on them, hand drawn maps to practicum sites that always included a picture of a car and a stick figure: these all made us smile. She had a million faces that expressed every emotion so vividly. She had a million stories from her rich

and varied life. Regardless of a person's relationship with Martha, once they met her, they never forgot her.

Martha's office was stacked with papers and books. Students regularly tried to clean up the music therapy lab. But go to her house and you'd be in for a different experience. I remember the tea parties with her silver tea service, homemade scones with clotted cream and cucumber sandwiches. She had beautiful rose bushes on her front patio and she would display them in fine crystal vases. Look around her house and you would see wonderful antiques and artwork. While her work place often reflected her tangential style, her home was a place of beauty that reflected her good taste and love of the finer things in life.

She had a big life with a multitude of experiences that led her to believe that music was healing. She had a big heart for the most desperate and the most in need. Throughout her life, she spent a great deal of time reaching out to people who needed compassion.

Martha left this earth peacefully in her beloved New Mexico. Those of us who loved her found great comfort and reassurance in that fact. We are very sad at her departure but we know her spirit lives on in many ways.

I think she would agree that whether you are a music therapist, a music educator, or a performer, you hold in your hands the healing power that is music. We all honor our professions when we realize it is about more than just the notes on the page.

Thanks for helping us see that, Martha. We'll miss you.

Mary Ann Molnar-Ellis, music therapist and speech language pathologist, Amarillo ISD

### DEPARTMENT HEAD'S CORNER

First of all, let me remind you that the grand opening of the new building will be on Friday, October 20. No, we're not in the building yet. No, the building isn't even ready yet. No, it doesn't look like it's going to be ready anytime soon. Delays, delays, delays! I wish I could tell you more, but you probably don't want to hear about it. Just know that the grand opening is Friday, October 20. If you can't make it that night or on band parent's day (Sept. 23) or on Homecoming (Oct. 7), just give us a call when you're in the area, and I'd be glad to show you around (regardless of how finished we are.)

As of May 15, the university has finalized only the first floor west corridor of the new fine arts complex, so the transfer is far from complete. Once the hand-off has been made, the university needs 30 days to prep the building. They need to have five coats of wax on the floors, they've got to wash everything down to eliminate dust from clogging the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) ducts, connect and test the electricity and internet connections, and other little details (con't on page three)

## ALUMNI NOTES

**William and Brenda McNeiland (students 58-60).** Bill is orchestra director at Jacksonville University. Brenda is parish musician at All Saints Episcopal Church and manages the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus.

**Sandra Chaney McMillen (BME '67)** sends this: "I recently retired from teaching (39 years – 22 years as a high school, junior high, middle school, and elementary choir director and 17 years as an elementary music teacher). In addition, I operated a private voice studio for 35 years. I am active in NATS and Mu Phi Epsilon (Dallas Alumni Chapter). I have served as Mu Phi Epsilon district director for the North Texas district for 14 years (outstanding director twice). In addition to my BME from WT, I hold a degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from UTA (the first vocal pedagogy degree given at UTA). My husband Phil, WT '66, is retired from the US Army and teaching. We are enjoying our children and grandchildren."

**Hugh T Lathem (BME '77),** French Horn, member of Kappa Kappa PSI and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. For most of the past 25 years, I have been a resident of the Houston area. I have been working as a computer programmer for the majority of that time. I have recently been working in the energy industry and also spent 8 years working in the shuttle program at the Johnson Space Center. In addition, I have continued to pursue my musical interests as a bass guitarist in a few of the local bands around town. I play many of the local clubs in and around the Houston area. I am married and have a daughter, Lesley (23), who lives in the Amarillo area. I would love to hear from any of my old colleagues from back in the day. Please email me at [htlathem@earthlink.net](mailto:htlathem@earthlink.net). I can't wait to hear from you.

**Janie Howard (BM '85, MM '87)** writes: "My triplets are four years old and new freedoms present themselves everyday! I continue as director of

music ministries at Davis United Methodist Church. This year I conducted the Faure *Requiem*, a community chorus, and in the fall will be performing *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. I continue to sing and teach a few lessons, play my bass every Sunday during services and I thank God for the wonderful, gifted, caring music faculty at WTAMU!! I've also directed a joint Jewish/Muslim/Christian kids musical for the last two years – part of a celebration of Abraham interfaith initiative."

**Adrian Letz (BME'98)** finished his residency last July and began his first assignment as an internist at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. Deborah graduated from law school. Fortunately, we evacuated prior to hurricane Katrina and didn't sustain any damage. We're looking forward to returning to Texas someday.

**Harry Haines** (department chair, '78-'98) won first place in the National Writer's Association 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Contest with his novel *Panic*. Set in the Texas Panhandle, *Panic* is about a veterinarian who discovers mad cow disease in the world's largest feedlot. Haines won in a field of more than 100 entries and was judged by two judges, an editor, and an agent.

## BANDS

This spring has been a busy time for the WTAMU Symphonic Band. Our tour to the Houston area was a wonderful opportunity for students and directors of that area to hear the symphonic band in concert. Daniel Loudenback was our feature soloist on the tour and he played wonderfully. While on the tour we were able to present six concerts and one clinic. We would like to thank the directors of Brenham High School, Dulles High School, Alvin High School, Klein Forest High School, Klein Collins, and A&M Consolidated High School for their wonderful hospitality.

In April, we have been busy preparing performances for our instrumental band clinics and

Showcase of Music concerts. Our instrumental band clinic and concert was a success again this year. This was the sixteenth year that we have hosted the event on the WTAMU campus. The visiting bands were Pampa High School, Amarillo High School, Brenham High School and Midland 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.

Showcase of Music was well attended and supported again this year. The event raised over thirty thousand dollars for music scholarships. We presented two band scholarships in Dr. Dudley Moore's name. This year's recipients were Mary Rowley of San Antonio and Laura Bennett from Bonham, Texas.

The Concert and Symphonic Band final concerts of the year are scheduled on Wednesday, April 26, at 6:00 and 8:00 PM respectively.

Don Lefevre, Director of Bands



**BRADLEY GARNER**

## BAND CAMP

The WTAMU Band Camp is scheduled for July 9-21. During the second week of the camp we will be featuring guest artist Dr. Bradley Garner. Dr. Bradley Garner holds degrees from West Texas State University and the Juilliard School. He is currently professor of flute at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. In addition,

Dr. Garner is active as flute soloist, teacher, and recording artist in the New York area. He has performed with the New York Philharmonic and is currently principal flutist with the Atlantic Sinfonietta, New York Virtuosi and Virtuosi Quintet. He has given numerous master classes in Korea, Japan, Canada and throughout the United States. Dr. Garner has recordings on the Koch International Classics, Capstone Digital, and Golden Crest Digital labels. In addition to his duties at CCM, Dr. Garner is also on the faculty at Juilliard Pre-College Division.

Dr. Gary Garner will be conducting the directors 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 our website at [www.wtamu.edu/academic/fah/music/bandcamp.htm](http://www.wtamu.edu/academic/fah/music/bandcamp.htm).

Have a great summer!

Don Lefevre

## FACULTY FOOTNOTES

**Denise Parr-Scanlin**, assistant professor of music and faculty advisor for the WTAMU Collegiate Chapter of MTNA, attended the national conference of the Music Teachers National Association in Austin in March. Among the sessions she attended was the Collegiate Chapter Forum where she heard a presentation on the establishment of a virtual collegiate chapter. This technological innovation will enhance the communication of MTNA student members from around the country. Dr. Parr-Scanlin also attended the MTNA National Young Artist competition.

## DEPARTMENT HEAD'S CORNER

(cont'd from page one)

like those. The big move from the FAB is supposed to take place the week following band camp. For us band campers, that's a scary thought as we always have a lot of work to do the week following the camp, such as paying bills, doing refunds, settling up

with the university, turning in keys, returning equipment and vehicles, and lots of other things. We'll just have to deal with it as best we can. The last time I heard, we will be permitted to go into the building on August 1 and classes will begin on August 28. It might be that we'll hold as many classes as rooms are available, and we'll continue to add classrooms as they are finished. Right now, there are just too many "ifs." Once we get there, it should be a fabulous space.

For your information, there is a student committee that has been formed to promote the grand opening. It's called the GO committee, for "grand opening." They are planning, among other things, a website that will have pictures and stuff. We'll put a link on our home page when that becomes available, but that will probably be closer to October 20.

On to other news. Denise Parr-Scanlin finished her doctorate from the University of Texas-Austin in December and Russ Teweleit finished his at the University of Oklahoma in May 2006. They were/will be reappointment assistant professors of music.

We've hired a new orchestra conductor (Mr. [soon to be Dr.] Mark Bartley) and theory teacher (Dr. Robert Denham). We'll run more information about them in the fall *Ritornello*. The quartet is looking at a fourth candidate this week before making a final decision, so that's coming along, and we got permission for a second dance position. Applications are due June 1.

Dr. Robert Hansen was given a Teaching Excellence Award this spring; Dr. Tina Carpenter won the award last year. It's nice that our faculty are being recognized. Dr. Susan Tariq was granted a Faculty Development Leave next month to attend a workshop on health-related issues, which is a recent addition to NASM accreditation. We already have a faculty committee in place and have had a couple of seminars to help students understand how they can avoid injury.

Speaking of NASM, would you help us by filling out the enclosed survey and sending it back to us? You identified some areas last time that caused us to modify and strengthen our curriculum.

Our next review is during the 2008-2009 academic year, but we need to begin collecting data now.

Mrs. Ruth Eason, wife of Dr. George Eason (WT piano faculty, '62-'89) passed away peacefully April 11 following an extended illness. Our best wishes go out to Dr. Eason, who lives in Washington.

We've had a change in administration here at the university. Dr. Russell C. Long announced his resignation at the beginning of the fall semester effective December 31, 2005. (Oh, yeah. I guess I forgot to tell you.) He's taking a year off and then will return to full-time teaching in the English department. Dr. Brian Chapman, who was hired as provost/vice president for academic affairs, became the acting president for the spring semester. Dr. Pat O'Brien, a business dean at Loyola University in New Orleans, assumed the presidency on May 15. Dr. Sue Park, dean of the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities, will retire next December after more than 40 years at WTAMU. We should do some articles for you to get you acquainted with the new faces and retirees in the next issue.

There will also be some department realignments in the next couple of years. Dance, for example, will move (in name only) to the department of art, dance, and theatre. Communications, which was part of ACT, will become a separate department, and history will come to the college. In the fall of 2007 we will change our name to the department of music.

Did I tell you that the grand opening is October 20?

Ted DuBois

## MUSIC ON THE HIGH PLAINS

The WTAMU department of music and dance hosted the Amarillo Music Teachers Association spring workshop, *Music On the High Plains*, on Saturday, April 8. It was a very successful event that brought together performers, students, and teachers for a day of master classes and seminars.

Four WT graduates were the driving forces behind the project:

Debra Wilcox (piano pedagogy, '89), Sherilyn Robinson, (music therapy '86), Michele Sheffield (piano performance '93 and master of music '01), and Nicole Koetting (music therapy '02). These independent piano teachers, all leaders in the AMTA organization, did a wonderful job of organizing the many details that went into staging such a varied program.

Featured guest artist was pianist John Bayless, who is from Borger, Texas. A graduate of The Juilliard School, he is known for his improvisations and transcriptions. His recording for Angel Records, *The Puccini Album: Arias for Piano*, was Number One on the *Billboard* classical crossover chart. Mr. Bayless, along with WT professor of voice Dr. Joe Ella Cansler and pianist/composer James Gardner of Amarillo, conducted master classes with students who were selected through audition. The selected performers included two WT piano majors: Atlanta Son from Pampa, Texas and Key-Hwa Lee from Seoul, Korea. Students and teachers also attended mini-seminars presented by: James Gardner (jazz and improvisation); Mr. Gardner and Dr. Cansler (singing with an accompanist/vocal coaching); Dr. Cansler (dealing with performance anxiety); Dr. Susan Martin Tariq, WT professor of music (injury prevention for musicians).

The full day of activity culminated in an evening recital in the Branding Iron Theater. The first half of the program featured students chosen as outstanding participants in the master classes and James Gardner, Joe Ella Cansler, percussionist Susan Martin Tariq, and pianist Denise Parr-Scanlin, assistant professor of music at WT.

The second half of the recital showcased Mr. Bayless's skills. After playing selections from his transcription of works from *West Side Story* and from his recording *Bach Meets the Beatles*, he charmed the audience with his improvisations on their requests.

The music department is pleased that AMTA chose our facilities for their spring workshop. We look forward to many more collaborations with this excellent organization and our outstanding graduates!

## PIANO FESTIVAL

The 2006 Piano Festival took a decidedly international turn when pianist Saida Kafarova arrived to serve as this year's judge. To open the event on Friday evening, she presented a piano recital. The rapt audience heard several rarely-performed works by Swedish composer Wilhelm Stenhammar and British composer Frank Bridge. WT international students from Dr. Kafarova's native Azerbaijan attended the recital and presented the artist with bouquets of flowers at the end of the program. A reception honoring Dr. Kafarova was hosted by the WTAMU Collegiate Chapter of the Music Teachers National Association.

On Saturday, students ranging from elementary through high school age played in Northen Recital Hall and received written critiques and ratings from Dr. Kafarova. Students who received the highest rating were awarded a certificate and a WT piano pin. Assisting throughout the festival were WT piano students and members of the WTAMU Collegiate Chapter of MTNA.

Saida Kafarova made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2000 as the winner of the Artists International Special Presentation Recital Award. She recently received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin and currently resides in Austin where she is the music director of the Young Artists Program at the First United Methodist Church in Round Rock.

## MUSIC THERAPY

As I write this article, I see we have two and a half weeks of school left. ☺ It has been a very busy semester. I am in the midst of observing our practicum students. I think we have a fairly good crop of kids (can you refer to kids as a crop?).

As many of you know, we lost Martha this past January. I have received many nice comments from many of you and a number of music therapists throughout the country. We dedicated our Showcase performance to her. We performed the song

"Dream Big" by Ryan Shuppe.

Martha was a big dreamer especially in terms of the program here at WT and having music therapy in the Panhandle. She played a huge part in many of our lives and will be greatly missed. Below I am including a write up I did for other venues. Have a wonderful summer.

Martha Munday Estes passed away on January 27, 2006, in Ojo Caliente, NM. Martha was born October 17, 1930, in Amarillo, Texas. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Texas in Austin and a master's degree in music history from Teacher's College at Columbia in New York. Through studies at The University of Georgia, Martha became a registered music therapist. In 1972, she began the undergraduate program at West Texas A&M University (formerly West Texas State University). There she served on the faculty until her retirement in 1998. Following her retirement, she remained busy. She traveled both nationally and internationally. She was active in her community and church.

Martha was active in the field of music therapy. She was a strong supporter of music therapy for individuals deaf and hard of hearing. She started the music therapy program at the Pavilion at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Martha loved music and life. As expressed at her memorial service, she was very energetic, enthusiastic and very interesting. A scholarship in her name was established at West Texas A&M University several years ago. The Martha Estes Music Therapy Scholarship is given yearly to two students (one current and one intern). If you wish to contribute: Martha Estes Music Therapy Scholarship, Department of Music and Dance, WTAMU Box 60879, Canyon, Texas 79015, Att: Edward Kahler, Ph.D., MT-BC

## CHORAL ACTIVITIES

With a successful Houston tour under their belt, the WT choirs have shifted focus to their annual performances with the Amarillo Symphony and Civic Chorus. This year's concerts



**THE WTAMU BASSOON ENSEMBLE at TMEA**

will feature Randall Thompson's *Testament of Freedom* and Samuel Barber's "Sure on this shining night."

The choirs represented themselves very well at this year's Showcase of Music. The Nigerian folk song "Betelehemu" was an audience favorite and the other selections were also well received.

From June 19-23, we will be conducting a choir camp. The focus of the choir camp will be all-state repertoire, but WT faculty and area conductors and teachers will also be offering courses in music theory and sight reading, stage presence and performance anxiety, vocal pedagogy and more. The 5-day commuter camp will cost \$150.00. For information and materials, contact Tracy See (806-651-2854).

On September 9th, we will hold the 2nd annual Panhandle Honor Choir. Our first year was a huge success. We had over 100 area students come to work with Dr. Stroope and Dr. Hall. This year's clinician is Dr. Jo Michael Scheibe, Director of Choral Activities at University of Miami and senior editor for Walton Music. Dr. Scheibe is a former Texas all-state clinician.

His ensembles have performed all over the world. He is one of the leading choral conductors of our time and we are excited to have him join us.

This year's program is still undecided, but it will feature at least two of next year's all-state selections.

Dr. Hall's new composition "A Dream of a Blessed Spirit" was premiered by the Chorale on the Winter Choir Concert. In December, the Chorale recorded it for submission to Walton Music. The score was accepted and will be in print any day. The WT Chorale will be featured on Walton's 2006 CD Sampler. This is the second time this has happened and we are excited about the attention it brings to our program. The piece has also been selected as part of this year's Georgia all-state choir program.

#### **HSQ**

The Harrington String Quartet bids farewell to Annie Chalex, first violinist of the quartet for the past nine years. Ms. Chalex will play her final HSQ subscription concert on Thursday, April 27 in Northen Recital Hall. The concert features guest pianist, Arthur Rowe, from the University of Victoria, BC. He and the quartet will perform the Piano Quintet in C Minor, Op. 1, by Ernst von Dohnanyi. The concert will also include works by Haydn and Ginastera, and two world premieres by James Gardner. The first, "Lone Pine Waltz," was written for the Harrington

String Quartet. The second, "Quartet Conversations: A Fiesta for Strings and Seniors," was commissioned by Park Central Community and is dedicated to the memory of Martha Estes. The idea of this collaboration was conceived

by Annie Chalex who was interested in a piece that would allow musicians to interact with members of the retirement community at Park Central. It was with the help of music therapists Amika Mobley and Dr. Carol Gardner that this piece was realized. The music is based on familiar tunes, to which the seniors will sing and play percussion instruments. It is an exciting and unique opportunity for everyone involved.

Auditions for the Harrington Quartet vacancy will take place during April and May when four applicants will perform with the Harrington Quartet, give master classes at WTAMU, and work with the Amarillo Symphony. These four violinists, from New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Nevada, were chosen from over 40 applicants from around the world. The quartet anticipates they will fill the position by June.

#### **NELSON ACCOLADES**

"I attended WTSU from 1979-1982. I was a bit of an oddball at this university (long hair, played guitar in a rock band) and didn't quite fit in. I wanted to learn modern composition and performance. No one would even entertain the idea of guitar instruction, so I took all of the classes that were remotely close to my interests and applied them in my own way as a means of self-education.

"In the course of my studies, I had composed a nine-page original manuscript for guitar, and I was curious how others would receive the piece. I had been aware of Dr. Nelson and his credentials; however, I did not have any classes with him. I left my composition in his mailbox (late one night), and to my surprise, he reviewed it and requested a meeting with me. He gave me very favorable feedback and a lot of inspiration to carry on and continue with my interests.

"I cannot tell you how much of an impact this encounter with Dr. Nelson had on my life...but I still remember, and it meant a great deal to me that he took the time to validate my endeavors (even though I was not his student and I was exploring things outside the curriculum being offered).

"Thank you, Dr. Nelson, for listening...good luck with your retirement, and I hope you enjoy it to the fullest!"

Gregory M. Brettell

## SPRING MUSICAL

Everything came up roses for the Music and Theatre departments in February with 8 smashing performances of "Gypsy." We pulled in the efforts of director Perry Crafton, musical director Robert Hansen, and choreographers Edward Truitt and grad

student Anthony Femath to mount what was the most ambitious musical production in several years.

The production was originally selected to be the premiere performance in the new Branding Iron Theatre, but the now legendary construction delays caused it to be the final musical in the old BIT. Somehow that seems appropriate, since the main character in the story is really the theatre.

Junior Laura Harrell headlined a superbly talented cast as the indomitable Mama Rose. Camille Medina and Jacqueline Sorenson were equally effective as June and Louise, respectively. The large cast brought together music majors, dance majors, and, of course, theatre majors in a truly joint and cooperative effort. A full pit orchestra of 20 players tackled the score with verve and energy, playing songs like "Let Me Entertain You,"

"Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Together Wherever We Go," and "Small World" that have become standards.

A passion for the theatre dominated Mama Rose's life, fueling her obsession with making her daughters into stars. She was willing to make whatever compromises were necessary to achieve that goal, so deep was the theatre's control. In that way, our production of Gypsy provided an appropriate farewell to a performance space that has launched many talented stars over the years.

**Send Alumni Notes Info to:  
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