

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

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GARY GARNER TO RETIRE

On Thursday, November 1st, Dr. Gary T. Garner announced his impending retirement to a stunned, silent and reflective WTAMU symphonic band. As a testament to the innumerable people Dr. Garner has touched over a distinguished career that can be matched by no other, nearly all WT alumni and most other music educators around the state, as well as many around the country, heard the same news only 24 hours after the announcement was made to a group of merely 65 individuals. I can think of no other educator that could inspire such an outpouring of love, respect, and reverence in our hearts than Dr. Garner. He has truly guided thousands of us through his musical genius and kind spirit, and he continues to shape the professionals we are today.

Dr. Garner's career does nothing less than instill awe and wonder. After teaching public school in the Lubbock Independent School District, he became the marching band director at the University of Southern California. Following completion of his doctorate, Dr. Garner joined the faculty at West Texas State University in 1963 as Director of Bands and as a woodwind teacher. He was appointed a professor in 1968. After Sally Turk was hired in 1978, Dr. Garner assumed the responsibility for directing the orchestra as well. During his extensive tenure at West Texas A&M University, he has taught flute, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, symphonic band, orchestra, concert band, wind ensemble, marching band, jazz band, pep band, conducting class, woodwind class, wind instrument literature, advanced instrumental technique, marching band technique, music appreciation, band arranging, dance band arranging, numerous education courses, and yet still found time to separate the chair A's from the chair B's! He has proven beyond a doubt that hard work, tenacity and diligence do produce excellence and superior results every time.

Dr. Garner's expertise even goes beyond the podium and the classroom. He has co-authored, along with James Middleton and Harry Haines, the book *Symphonic Band Winds: A Quest for Excellence*, now in its second edition. He also recently co-authored *T.R.I. (Technique, Rhythm, Intonation for Band)* with J. R. McEntyre and Harry Haines,



GARY GARNER, professor of music

both of which have been published by Southern Music Company. On the flute, his first love, he has produced at least four superior recordings. Furthermore, he has also arranged many pieces for band, the most recent being Smetana's *Bartered Bride Overture*. It seems there is no end to his extraordinary talents!

Accomplishments of such a profound nature have not gone unnoticed. Dr. Garner has taken the WTAMU symphonic band to Carnegie Hall on two occasions. He has also taken the band to the Texas Music Educators Association annual convention an exceptional ten times, more than any other cont'd on page 3

ALUMNI NOTES

Stephen Sampsell ('81 BME) lives in Platte City, Missouri with wife Kenna and sons Taylor (13), Graham (10) and daughter Blaire (7). He taught for 11 years in an inner city magnet school and moved to a suburban school (Martin City Middle School) in 2000. He would love to hear about other grads from the late 70s, early 80s. Send in some info!

Amy Beebe ('91 BM, '93 MM) performed the role of Mabel in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penanze* with the Troupers Light Opera Company. Troupers is a local Connecticut company, founded in 1946, that exclusively performs Gilbert and Sullivan. She also was a finalist in the Classical Productions. The performance took place at Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall. While she did not win, she received some very positive comments from the judges.

Troy Larson ('98 BM) received sweepstakes with his concert choir at contest in May and all ones on stage and a two in sight-reading. At the Heritage Music Festival in Anaheim, California, his show choir and mens choir received first place gold. The judges were from UNLV, the University of Southern California, and a high school teacher.

BAND

At the writing, we have just divided into Symphonic and Concert Bands and early indications are that both groups will be very strong. They will perform their Christmas concerts on December 3, the Concert Band at 3:00 p.m. and the Symphonic Band at 8:00 p.m.

The Symphonic Band will tour through the Panhandle this year February 6-8. The itinerary is almost complete. Concerts are scheduled for Canyon HS, Randall HS, Amarillo HS, Palo Duro HS, Tascosa HS, Pampa HS, and Canadian HS. Soloist for the tour will be Amy Browning-Clark, flute, playing *Poem* by Griffes.

The Wind Ensemble will perform a concert in Northen Hall on Wednesday,

November 28. The program will include: *Cloudsplitter Fanfare* by Stamp; *Zion* by Welcher; *On the Grand Prairie, Texas* by Holsinger; and *Fantasies on a Theme by Haydn* by Dello Joio.

One particularly exciting piece of band news is the commissioning of a new work by Lennie Niehaus, a highly regarded California composer. Among his other credits, Niehaus scores most of the Clint Eastwood movies. The commission was a joint project of the band, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Tau Beta Sigma.

ORCHESTRA

The orchestra started the year on a high note with a performance of George Gershwin's *Cuban Overture*, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* and the *Double Concerto* for violin and cello by Brahms.

Soloists on the Mozart were Corinne Stillwell, violin, and Joanna Mendoza, viola. Annie Chalex was violin soloist on the Brahms and Emmanuel Lopez was the cellist. All four are members of the Harrington Quartet.

The next performance for the orchestra will be the annual Christmas Concert with the choir at which they will perform Debussy's *Afternoon of a Faun*.

CHORAL ACTIVITIES

Greetings to you from the choral music department. We have recently finished our fall choral concert, an event in which we combined to perform two movements of Randall Thompson's *Testament of Freedom*, a perennial favorite patriotic number which was inserted following the horrible events of 9/11. The performance wrapped up a very good effort by both choral ensembles and the evening was quite emotional for students and audience. Patriotism is alive and well at this university.

The holiday season at WT begins with the annual Christmas Concert Friday night, November 30 at 8:00 p.m., an unusually early date to be performing Christmas music.

However, the semester ends with "dead day" on the following Thursday, and there are no Fridays in December this semester during which there are classes. We program this concert on the last Friday in the semester because Friday afternoon is the only weekday when the orchestra and choral students can have a mass rehearsal without missing classes. The Carol of Lights will be held Tuesday, November 27, starting at 6:00 p.m. on the south steps of Old Main. Both choirs combine and the audience, brass and choirs end the program with a short "carol sing" after which Dr. Long throws a switch that lights up the entire campus for the holiday season.

The Schola Cantorum will sing in the Renaissance Christmas Feast on 1 December in the Alumni Banquet Hall. In the spring, the WT Chorale's tour is to Albuquerque, NM, to sing for several high school music programs. Both ensembles (WT Chorale and the Collegiate Chorus) will perform at the Showcase of Music (April 5) and our spring concert has been usurped by our performance of Haydn's *The Creation* with the Lubbock Civic Chorus, the Amarillo Civic Chorus, and the Amarillo Symphony April 20. This is a wonderful major work for voices and orchestra, so make your plans to be there. This concert sells out each year due to the large number of performers on stage and their family, friends and relatives that want to attend. Get your tickets early.

Alumni, if you know of talented singers in your area, encourage them to consider WTAMU's music department. Your enthusiasm and backing could make a real difference to our music program. We appreciate your support, and see you at the concerts!
George Biffle, D.M.A.

OPERA WORKSHOP

The WTAMU opera workshop, directed by Cloyce Stradley, will perform Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte* in the spring. The performances will be held on February 8, 9, & 10 in Northen Recital Hall. The cast includes: Marcy McKee as Fiordiligi,

Meredith Kemp and Angie Yarbrough as Dorabella, Brian Kuhnert as Guglielmo, Rolando Salazar as Ferrando, April Johnston and Marti Dible as Despina, and James Garza as Don Alfonso. Please call 651-2856 for ticket information.

SING-A-THON

This year, the voice department held its first annual Sing-A-Thon to raise money for vocal scholarships at WTAMU. We began the event with a Gala Recital on October 12 at 8:00 pm. After the wonderful reception, the singing began and lasted until 8:00 am on October 13. The students sang everything from opera and musical theatre to contemporary Christian. People brought their sleeping bags so that they could sing and sleep in shifts. Area businesses donated several prizes that were given out throughout the evening. We received donations and pledges per song (243 songs were sung) or per hour. The proceeds will allow us to award several vocal scholarships at the honors recital in the spring.

MUSIC THEATRE

This fall 2001 found the music and theater departments collaborating to present the Fall Musical Theater Recital in the Intimate Theater. We auditioned and cast early in the semester so we could perform September 27, 28 & 29. It is a wonderful venue for students to experiment and have the spotlight with a variety of solo and ensemble numbers. Jose Ochoa choreographed, Royal Brantley directed, and Joe Ella Cansler was musical director. Fun was had by all.

This year's spring musical will be *She Loves Me* by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick (composers of *Fiddler on the Roof*). If you liked the Tom Hanks movie *You've Got Mail*, you must come see this show. It is derived from the same play by Miklos Lazlo, *Parfumarie*. *She Loves Me* is a warm romantic comedy with an endearing innocence and a touch of Old World elegance and nostalgia, yet is as universal and relevant as ever in this

age of internet romances. Perry Crafton is the director, Joe Ella Cansler the musical director, Jose Ochoa the choreographer. It will play February 13-17. Be sure to mark it on your calendars.

GARY GARNER, con't

university band program in the state. In 1983, he was only the third professor in the history of WTAMU to be awarded the statewide Minnie Piper Stevens Award for excellence in education. He was named the Texas Bandmaster of the Year in 1987 in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the band world. He has also received the WTAMU Faculty Excellence Award, the Kappa Kappa Psi – Tau Beta Sigma Bohumil Makovsky Award, the Kappa Kappa Psi Distinguished Service to Music Award, the Gene Hemmie Award from Texas Tech University, and the Phoenix Club University Excellence Award. I can think of no other individual that deserves such rich commendation and recognition as Dr. Gary Garner.

There are simply not enough words of praise and acclaim for Gary. Dr. Garner is viewed as a musical role model, and he is most certainly steeped in the traditions of personal, educational and artistic integrity. He has been a mentor, a friend and a second father to so many of his students. After 39 years of teaching at WTAMU, he still fosters a burning desire to improve his skills and teaching techniques. Even more importantly, his pursuit of excellence has never overshadowed what is best for the students.

On a more personal note, I would be willing to guess that when you first heard the news of Dr. Garner's retirement, your reaction was much like mine. Although I am overjoyed for Dr. Garner and his newfound happiness with his bride Mary Irene and all of the exciting experiences that retirement will surely offer, I feel a profound sadness for what I feel is our loss in not being able to relate daily to a musical genius, a noble person, and a dear friend. In my mind's eye, I will always see Dr. Gary Garner with a flute in hands and a smile on his face.

We are all thankful that he has shared so many great experiences throughout his career at West Texas A&M University with his friends, colleagues, and thousands of loyal students.

Don Lefevre

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, assistant professor of voice and musical theatre director, was invited to participate in the American Institute for Voice and Ear Research affiliated with The Voice Foundation in Philadelphia for a week in October, with one of the most celebrated otorhinolaryngologist neurology physicians in the world, Dr. Robert Thayer Sataloff, M, D., D.M.A. Voice research in-house resources include a comprehensive, extensively equipped voice laboratory for acoustic, aerodynamic, vibratory and other phonatory assessments; seven stroboscopy rooms; facilities for singing and acting voice analysis; research, therapy and training. She saw and discussed over forty patients, followed through with patient therapy with the performing arts voice teams, and scrubbed and observed intricate microsurgery. She also had the opportunity to be a guest singer with the Jefferson University Choral and attended performance arts lectures at Jefferson University. She was also invited to the premiere of a new Broadway musical *Camila* by Lori McKelvey.

Dr. Tina Carpenter, associate professor, sat on a panel discussion, "College Bassoon Teaching Responsibilities and Realities," at the International Double Reed Society meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia, in August. Colleagues from Michigan State University, Kansas State University, and Ohio State University joined her.

Dr. Edward Kahler, assistant professor of music therapy, received the Distance Learning Innovation Award at the May commencement.

Dr. Susan Martin Tariq, associate professor, performed a percussion duo recital (including works for marimba, vibraphone, multiple percussion and djembe) on the WT

campus with Sherry Rubins, director of percussion studies at UT-San Antonio, on September 30th. The duo presented the recital again on the UTSA campus on October 3rd. In the fall semester, Tariq also presented a series of solo recitals performing UIL Class I percussion solos, followed by masterclasses on the all state band try-out music, at various high schools around the state.

FACULTY EMERITUS

Martha Estes (music therapy faculty, 1973-1998) and **Dr. Harry Haines** (department head, 1977 to 1998) were awarded professor emeritus status at last May's commencement ceremonies. To be named to emeritus rank, the person has to have been retired for two or more years, have at least ten years of full-time service to the university, and be nominated by current WTAMU faculty to a subcommittee which then forwards its recommendation to Dr. Long, the university president. Dr. Haines was named Canyon Man of the Year in 1999 for his successful fundraising efforts to build a new public library. Mrs. Estes has continued work in music therapy and has traveled to conferences as far away as Australia.

IN MEMORIUM

Martha Morris, former music librarian, died July 12, 2001, in Amarillo. Mrs. Morris was born April 7, 1928, to B.L. and Bess Morgan. She married Mike Morris in Amarillo on Dec. 6, 1951. She was a resident of Canyon from 1951 to 1993. She was a walker for equitherapy. She was a member of St. George's Episcopal Church, Daughters of American Revolution, the Amarillo Garden Center and Daughters of the King. Survivors include her husband; a daughter, Angela Ridgway of Midland; four sons, Bynum Morris of Canyon, Dave Morris of Amarillo, Doug Morris of Ft. Worth and Rich Morris of El Paso; four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Dr. Hugh Sanders, former director of the WT Chorale and Dean of Fine Arts, distinguished choral music director and retired Director of



MARY RUTH McCULLEY AND JOLENE DAVIS
Rededication of Northen Recital Hall Organ

the Church Music Institute at Baylor University, passed away on August 31, 2001, at the age of 66. He is survived by his wife Rinky of Waco, son Stan and his wife Deanna of Dallas, daughter Stacie Hendrickson and her husband Carey of Arlington, sister Rudell Bilderback of Indiana, and four grandchildren, Holly and Hunter Hendrickson and Caleb Hugh and Jared Sanders. A memorial service in celebration of his life and his love of God was held at Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco on Tuesday, September 4 at 2:00 pm. Dr. Sanders had a deep love for God, his family, his students and music. Dr. Sanders was born on March 10, 1935, in Floydada, Texas, but grew up in Portales, New Mexico, where he graduated from high school in 1953. He earned both his Bachelor of Music Education degree (1957) and his Master of Music degree (1959) from Baylor University. After nearly a decade of teaching in the public school systems of Port Arthur and Pampa, he became Director of Choral Activities at West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M) in 1967, while at the same time earning the Doctor of Musical Arts degree (1970) from the University of Colorado. He was named Dean of the WTSU School of Fine

Arts in 1978. Dr. Sanders joined the Baylor Music faculty in 1984 as the Ben H. Williams Professor of Music where he directed the Baylor A Cappella Choir until 1991, when he was appointed Director of the Institute for Church Music and Worship. He was also a cofounder of Alliance Music Publications, Inc. in Houston. During his distinguished career, Dr. Sanders served as national president of American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and president of Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA). He also served as Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Canyon for 17 years and Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco for 14 years. In 1997, the Texas Choral Directors Association (TCDA) recognized him with the prestigious Texas Choirmaster Award for his lifetime of achievement in choral music. It was only the third time in its long history that TCDA has given this award. Both his alma maters have also recognized Dr. Sanders' accomplishments. Baylor University's Omicron Delta Kappa honored him as one of the "Baylor Men and Women of Merit," and the University of Colorado College of Music designated him as "Outstanding Alumnus of the College in the Field of Music Education." Dr.

Sanders' choirs at both the high school and university levels were considered among the best in the nation. His choirs were selected to perform at numerous national and international venues, providing memorable performances for those participating and listening, many of which are still talked about to this day. On five separate occasions he prepared and conducted choirs in performances at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Beyond his musicianship, Dr. Sanders had a profound impact on the lives of the students he taught. He possessed a rare and unique gift to inspire his students to intense loyalty to their faith, to him, to each other and to the gift of music. He will be deeply missed by all those whose lives he touched.

MUSIC THERAPY

The music therapy program is off to a running start. We are very excited about having 21 students (transfer and true freshman) in the "Freshman" class this fall. We have just returned from California and the national conference. Four students went from Canyon and we met three interns there. The students are busy making plans for their fall retreat on November 16 and scheduling presenters for club meetings. I can't believe we are talking about Showcase already! This spring we are having the regional conference in Lubbock. I hope all can attend. There has been an interest in having a "University Alumni Get-Together" at the conference. We are making plans. If you want to come to or present at the conference, let me know. I hope everyone is having a productive fall. Enjoy the holidays and hope to see you in Lubbock.

BAIRD IN HALL OF FAME

Don Baird, former WT assistant band director and low brass instructor from 1965 to 1979, was inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame on July 23rd in San Antonio. Remembered by students as an outstanding teacher, Baird was a native of Ponca City, Oklahoma, with degrees from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, and the University of

Illinois. He served in the United States Army Band in Washington, D.C., for two years. He also taught in Odessa, Caldwell, Kansas, and at Phillips University before coming to WT.

CONCERT COMPETITION WINNERS

This year's concerto competition finals took place on November 3rd and showcased many fine performers. The winners this year are Eldar Hudiev, violin, performing Tchaikovsky's *Concerto in D major, Op. 35*, first movement; Katie Richards, violin, on the first movement of Henri Wieniawski's *Concerto in D minor, Op. 22*; the Rondo movement of the *Concerto for Alto Saxophone* by Pierre Max Dubois performed by Daniel Loudenback; Amy Browning-Clark performing the *Concerto for Flute*, second movement, by Martin Kennedy; and Yasmin Flores, clarinet, playing the *Rigoletto Grand Fantasy* by Luigi Bassi. The winners will be featured on the orchestra concert of Sunday March 3rd at 8:00 p.m.

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 Mr. R. R. Whitten
 Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Williams
 Mrs. Donna E. Wilson
 Mrs. Gail L. Wilson
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Woodall
 Mr. & Mrs. Clark E. Wooldridge
 Mrs. Juanita Wooten
Young's Automotive Tech Center

CALENDER OF EVENTS

| January | |
|-----------------|--|
| 18 | Faculty Grand Recital |
| February | |
| 3 | Symphonic Band |
| 8 | Opera |
| 9 | Opera |
| 9 | Harrington String Quartet |
| 10 | Opera |
| 17 | Dr. Susan Martin Tariq/Doug Storey Faculty Recital |
| 23 | Piano Festival |
| 27 | "Trio del Sol" Arizona State Faculty Trio |
| March | |
| 3 | Concert Band |
| 3 | Concerto Concert |
| 7 | Choir Concert |

| April | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 4 | Low Brass Concert |
| 5 | Showcase of Music |
| 7 | Orchestra Concert |
| 13 | Day of Percussion |
| 14 | David Palmer/Faculty Recital/Piano |
| 17 | Conducting Recital |
| 23 | Jazz Band |
| 24 | Special Student Recital |
| 28 | Concert Band |
| 28 | Symphonic Band (At Amarillo Civic Center) – Admission Charge |
| 29 | Special Student Recital |
| 30 | Honors Recital |
| 30 | Orchestra Concert |
| Call 651-2840 for information. | |



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND DANCE FACULTY

Seated from left: Kerry Hughes, Susan Hackett, Russ Teweleit, Don Lefevre, Tina Carpenter, Sally Turk, Donna Flatt, Sonja Love; standing from left: Ed Kahler, Ron Lemon, Doug Storey, Cale Self, Ted DuBois, Department Chair, Sue Park, Dean of Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities, Joe Cox, Gary Garner, Marcy McKee, Cloyce Stradley, Brian Kuhnert, Susan Martin Tariq, Cecil Crabtree, Kim Hawbaker-Cooley, Robert Krause, Barbara Wooldridge, Robert Hansen, Sandor Ostlund, and Joe Ella Cansler.

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

- 1. The TMEA alumni reception will be held at the Riverwalk Plaza Hotel Ballroom. Note the change of location.**
- 2. A retirement reception honoring Dr. Garner will be held following the symphonic band's April 28 concert at the Amarillo Civic Center auditorium. Guest artist for the concert will be clarinetist Eddie Daniels.**

RITORNELLO

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