RIORNE

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West Texas A&M University . Department of Music

Fall/Winter 2008

Father and son to share stage at national convention

Members of the West Texas A&M University Symphonic Band were excited to learn they were selected to perform at the College Band Directors National Association Convention.

The WTAMU Symphonic Band, under the direction of Don Lefevre, associate professor of music, is the only Division II university band in the nation selected to perform at the 2009 College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Convention to be hosted

Don Lefevre

by The University of Texas at Austin. The band is scheduled to perform at 2:30 p.m. March 26 in Bates Hall on the UT campus.

The Symphonic Band is no stranger to invited presentations. The band has been selected from blind auditions to perform 12 times at the annual Texas Music Educators Association, most recently in February 2008. The group last performed at a national CBDNA convention in 1981 in Ann Arbor, Mich., under the direction of Dr. Gary Garner, professor emeritus of music.

Garner and his son Dr. Bradley

Garner, flute virtuoso and WTAMU alumnus, will collaborate on stage together at CBDNA. Composer Glen Cortese has written a piece for wind ensemble and flute titled "Apollo's Fire," which was commissioned by a friend of the WTAMU Band. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Symphonic Band to share the stage at CBDNA with the Garners.

Dr. Gary Garner's 39 years of service to the music department at WTAMU was filled with remarkable accomplishments. Among the awards and honors he has received are the WTAMU Faculty Excellence Award; WTAMU Phoenix Club Award for Teaching Excellence; Minnie Piper Stevens Award; Texas Bandmaster of the Year; Bohumil Makovsky Award for outstanding service to college bands; Phi Beta Mu International Outstanding Bandmaster; and the Gene Hemmle Award as an outstanding music alumnus from Texas Tech University. In 2005, he was chosen Honorary Lifetime Member of the Texas Bandmasters Association and was named a professor emeritus of WTAMU.

Bradley Garner has been described as one of today's most exciting flutists. He is on the faculties of The University of Cincinnati College—Conservatory of Music, New York University and the Juilliard School.

He has played concerts and recitals throughout the world with great acclaim. He is an active soloist, teacher and recording artist in the Cincinnati and New York City areas. He has frequently played with the New York Philharmonic and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. He has been principal flutist with the Atlantic Sinfonietta, the New York Virtuosi and Virtuosi Quintet, and the 20th-Century Chamber Orchestra.

He received his bachelor of music and master of arts degrees

from West Texas State University where he studied with his father and Sally Turk, associate professor of music. He was the first flutist to receive the doctor of musical arts degree from the Juilliard School where he studied with Julius Baker. Brad Garner has performed as soloist in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center with Julius Baker and Jean-Pierre Rampal and was recently the first American flutist to be invited by the Russian government to perform in Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall. He has performed and given master



Dr. Gary Garner

classes in Asia, Europe and throughout North America.

Composer Donald Grantham resides in Austin, and is the Frank C. Erwin Jr. Centennial Professor of Composition at The University of Texas at Austin. Grantham has been commissioned by friends of the WTAMU Symphonic Band to write a symphony for the bands' performance at CBDNA. This will be Grantham's first symphony for band and is titled "Symphony for Winds and Percussion." Grantham's symphony is in three movements: Bright, then dark, Melancholy and Stomp.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes in composition, including the Prix Lili Boulanger, the Nissim/ASCAP Orchestral Composition Prize, First Prize in the Concordia Chamber Symphony's Awards to American Composers, a Guggenheim Fellowship, three

grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, three first prizes in the NBA/William Revelli Competition, two first prizes in the ABA/Ostwald Competition and first prize in the National Opera Association's Biennial Composition Competition. His music has been praised for its "elegance, sensitivity, lucidity of thought, clarity of expression and fine lyricism" in a citation awarded by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.





Dr. Bradley Garner

Faculty Footnotes

The West Texas A&M University/Amarillo Area French
Horn Ensemble performed in July for the 40th International Horn
Symposium in Denver. Conducted by **Ron Lemon**, retired associate
professor of horn at WTAMU, the group included present and former
music majors, Amarillo Symphony members and

former band camp members.

The WTAMU group was one of several university ensembles nationwide invited to play at the symposium. During the weeklong event, members of the ensemble attended master classes, coaching sessions, and recitals and concerts by world-famous soloists, orchestral players and Hollywood studio musicians.

Located in a different country each year, the symposium's theme in Denver was "Play at New Heights." Lemon also guest-conducted a participant's ensemble at the symposium. Lemon, a WTAMU faculty member since 1976, attended the first horn symposium in 1969 when the International Horn Society was being formed.





In June, Jen
Tyler, **Tracy See**,
ensemble secretary, and **Dr. Mark Bartley**,
assistant professor of
orchestral studies,
launched WTAMU's
first Strings Camp
with a chamber music

emphasis. A group of 90 junior high and high school string players participated in the three-day resident and commuter camp that culminated in a concert featuring 14 chamber groups. The campers were coached by WTAMU faculty members, including the Harrington String Quartet, and local musicians.

Strings Camp 2009 is scheduled for May 31–June 5. This time, young pianists are welcome to join the string players for chamber music-making.

Dr. Bill Takacs, assistant professor of trumpet, created a podcast about the Texas All-State etudes where he gives preparation suggestions and performs the etudes at various tempos. It can be accessed for free at http://wtamutrumpet.podomatic.com.

During the 2008–2009 season, Tomas

Cotik, Harrington lecturer of music, appeared as a soloist in Amarillo,



Miami and Toronto. He presented a chamber music recital with piano Oct. 9 and the Bruch violin concerto Nov. 12 on the WTAMU campus. The Harrington String Quartet is planning an exciting season, including the recording of Mendelssohn quintets with James Dunham to be released in 2009. Cotik also has started a non-profit project following his dream

to record Schubert's music for violin and piano with the sponsoring of Fractured Atlas. For information, recordings, photos and a concert schedule, visit www.tomascotik.com.

Four new faculty members joined the Department of Music in the 2008 fall semester. **Dr. B.J. Brooks**, assistant professor of music, teaches music theory and composition and is the composer of numerous works for ensembles, solo performers and electro-acoustic music. He earned a bachelor of music education degree in winds/percussion from Eastern New Mexico University, a master of arts degree in music from WTAMU and a doctor of musical arts degree in composition from Texas Tech University.

Brooks' compositions are played by a wide range of performers, from universities to beginning bands. His music can be found on several repertoire lists including Texas' PML and has been featured at several conventions such as TMEA, TBA and the Midwest Clinic. In addition, his music has been included as educational material at the University of North Texas Conductor's Collegium and in the book series *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*. Brooks original scores are published by Trevco Music, Grand Mesa Music and Octatone. He is an active clinician with both concert and marching bands across the Southwest.

Jeremy Lewis, instructor of music, received a bachelor of music degree in tuba performance from Texas Christian University and a master of music degree in tuba performance from Indiana University. He teaches applied tuba and euphonium lessons, as well as brass class.

Lewis is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, the International Tuba and Euphonium Association and the American Federation of Musicians. His research interests include all things tuba and euphonium related, especially newly composed tuba and euphonium concerti.

Dr. Raimundo Morales, assistant professor of music, received his bachelor of music degrees in music education and trombone performance from Texas A&M University—Kingsville, and his master of music and doctor of musical arts degrees in trombone performance from the University of Texas at Austin. His primary trombone teachers include Ralph Morales, Hector Navarro, Victor Gunnoe, Dr. Paul Hageman and Dr. Nathaniel Brickens.

Morales teaches applied trombone courses and is associate director of Buffalo Marching Band. Prior to his appointment at WTAMU, he taught applied trombone at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi and was a middle school band director with Austin Independent School District.

As a classical musician, Morales has won or placed in solo trombone competitions, including the International Trombone Association Frank Smith Competition, The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" Eastern Trombone Workshop, The Kingsville Young Performers Competition and The Big XII Solo Trombone Competition. He is an advocate for the trombone and is an active member of the International Trombone Association.

William Wiegard, assistant professor of music, is principal horn in the Amarillo Symphony and regularly performs with the San Antonio Symphony, Brass FX and Anime Winds. Wiegard performs with WT Brass, the University's resident faculty brass quintet, in addition to mentoring performance, music education and music

Program News

Music Teachers National Association

The WTAMU chapter of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) kicked off a new year in high gear with a hike to the Lighthouse in Palo Duro Canyon State Park in September. Newly selected officers are Brandy Chapman, president, and David Conley and Robert Snider, co-vice presidents. Jeremy Duck will serve as treasurer, and Jonathan Delong and Ryne Williams will work together as co-secretaries.

The diverse group of pianists and instrumentalists are planning to give recitals and planning a trip to the annual convention of the Texas Music Teachers Association in Houston later in the year, among other activities. Faculty advisers are Dr. Denise Parr-Scanlin and Dr. Choongha Nam.

Opera Workshop

This fall, the WTAMU Opera Workshop, under the direction of Dr. Cloyce Kuhnert, and the WTAMU Symphony, conducted by Dr. Mark Bartley, delighted audiences with Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* in Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall.

Our students rose to the challenge of building a set and performing in a venue that is not necessarily designed for operatic productions. It really speaks to their desire for a complete learning experience in opera.

In addition to this full opera production, the WTAMU Opera Workshop will present a program of opera scenes in April 2009. Several graduate students will be directing some of the scenes. A small orchestral ensemble, under the direction of WTAMU music major Kyle Davis, has agreed to accompany them. It is fantastic to see the growing enthusiasm for opera on our campus. The student participation and audience size has increased greatly in the past few years.

We want to thank all of our alumni for supporting our flourishing opera program, and we hope to see you in the audience in April!

Orchestra

Following successful live cinema presentations of Phantom of the

Opera and City Lights, the WTAMU Symphony Orchestra will feature Charlie Chaplin's *The Kid*, with a newly composed score written by the music department's own Dr. B.J. Brooks, assistant professor of music. The premiere begins at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, in Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall.

The orchestra will then tour West Texas, ultimately arriving in San Antonio for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention for a clinic on live cinema presented by conductor Dr. Mark Bartley, assistant professor of music and director of orchestral activities. This will be the orchestra's first appearance at TMEA.

The spring semester also includes the Showcase of Music Friday, April 3, and a spring concert Sunday, April 19.

The 2008 fall semester has been a particularly busy one for the orchestra. First came WTAMU opera's production of *Pirates of Penzance* in mid-October. A week later, the orchestra performed at the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities' production of *Passport*, a collaborative

concert of the Department of Music with the theatre and dance programs. Soprano Mary Jane Johnson appeared as soloist, performing Strauss' "Four Last Songs" on a program which included Respighi's "Ancient Airs and Dances," and Shostakovich's "Symphony No. 5 Finale."

The annual Christmas Concert with the WTAMU choirs was Dec. 7 in Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall. They were joined by special guest ensemble, the Amarillo College Concert Choir.

Marching Band

Greetings!

Marching Band has had an outstanding season this fall. Last spring, after accepting this position, it occurred to me that I would be only the third director of the Buffalo Marching Band since 1963! It has been an incredible experience, and I am so very honored and humbled to have the opportunity. The students have been amazing and have made the transition very easy.

This fall was also the debut of our new uniforms. They look fantastic, and, after 13 years with the previous uniforms, we were certainly due for an update.

Our year has been full of thrilling games, great performances and some wild weather. The Buffs won all but one regular-season football game and will likely make the Division II playoffs once again this year. If you haven't been to a WTAMU football game lately, you should make a point to come see one, if at all possible. A crowd of 18,000 or more has become commonplace at Kimbrough Memorial Stadium.

The Marching Band worked hard to support the Buffs at our final regular season games, while both the concert and symphonic bands were busy preparing for our Dec. 3 concerts. If you live near the Austin area, be sure to catch the Symphonic Band's performance at CBDNA in March 2009.

Go Buffs!

Russ Teweleit, Marching Band director

See Program News, page 5



The University's Marching Band performs during halftime of a Buffalo football game.

SHOWCASE FRIDAY, APRIL 3

ARILLO CIVIC CENTE PRE-SHOW IN THE LOBBY AT 7:15 P.M.; ON-STAGE STARTS AT 8

Program News, continued from page 3

Music Therapy

It is another exciting fall at WTAMU. The biggest news is we have 15 students in the freshmen class. That is great news. Most are true freshmen, but there are a few transfer students that have joined us. Yes, three boys! The club, as usual, is busy fundraising for national conference. There will be seven students attending national conference. They have also arranged to have some local music therapists come talk to the group.

If you haven't heard, the regional conference will be in Amarillo in 2010. Carol Gardner and I are busy making plans. It looks like it will be a fun and educational time. If you have not had a chance to visit the regional webpage, please do. You can view it at www.swamtal.org.

The other item that is very interesting and helpful is the regional listserve. You can join through a link on the website. Members of the listserve often bring up interesting discussions. It was and always is nice hearing from you when you can. Drop us a note or email. If you are ever in town, please stop by and visit; maybe you can talk to a class or two.

Have a good year!

Edward P. Kahler, director of Music Therapy ekahler@wtamu.edu

Choirs

Fall has been an exciting and busy time for the WTAMU choirs. The Fall Choir Concert was Oct. 23 in Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall. It featured a wide variety of music from all major historical periods, including folksongs from Estonia, Haiti and Ireland.

At the end of October (Oct. 26–29) the WTAMU Chorale toured in the El Paso/Las Cruces area, and they were in concert Nov. 16 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Amarillo. The concert featured music from the choir's tour.

Also in November, the WTAMU choirs joined ranks with the choir of Amarillo's Polk Street United Methodist Church for a celebration of the church's 120th anniversary. The celebration featured the premiere performance of an arrangement of the hymn "My Faith is Built," by Dr. Daniel J. Hall.

The semester ended with the 27th annual Renaissance Holiday Feast Dec. 6 and the Christmas Concert Dec. 7.

Busy fall for Harrington String Quartet

The Harrington String Quartet (HSQ) began its first complete season with its new membership (Tomas Cotik and Keith Redpath, violins; Jennifer Kozoroz, viola; and Emmanuel Lopez, cello) with three concerts in venues across the Texas Panhandle.



Harrington String Quartet performs at WTAMU Convocation Sept. 18.

The concerts began with the Friends of Aeolian Skinner Opus 1024 series at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Amarillo. The quartet performed works by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Schulhoff, a deeply moving piece by a composer who later died in a concentration camp in the 1940s.

The next concert was at the invitation of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, in Goodwell, Okla. Having just renovated their Hughes-Strong Auditorium, the university wished to begin a concert series on campus and asked HSQ to be part of their first season. Another newly renovated theater, The Ritz Theater in Wellington, was the venue for the third concert. Their "Live at the Ritz!" concert series, begun last year, has become a magnet for performers all across the Texas Panhandle.

HSQ had its first subscription concert, a homecoming of sorts, at Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall Nov. 7. For this concert, the quartet brought in guest violist James Dunham to perform both of the Mendelssohn viola quintets—two rarely heard gems that the HSQ is planning to record for Mendelssohn's bicentennial in 2009. Dunham was the violist of the world-renowned Cleveland Quartet, which disbanded in 1997.

HSQ's spring concert schedule includes:

- Feb. 6—7:30 p.m., Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall, Ravel, Piazolla, Dvorak with guests from the WTAMU Dance Program and WTAMU bass instructor Nick Scales; and
- April 30—7:30 p.m., Amarillo Museum of Art, Beethoven, Shostakovich, Bartok.

Faculty Footnotes, continued from page 2

therapy majors. He is an avid supporter of contemporary music and has collaborated with acclaimed composers John Adams, Aaron Jay Kernis, Bright Sheng, Dan Welcher, Louis Andriessen, Susan Botti, Donald Grantham, Michael Daugherty and William Bolcom.

Wiegard is a doctoral candidate at The University of Texas at Austin. He has earned degrees in horn performance and chamber music from The University of Michigan and The University of Iowa. His primary teachers include Patrick Hughes, Sören Hermansson, Kristin

Thelander and Jeffry Agrell.

He can be heard as principal horn on Naxos' Grammy Awardwinning recording of William Bolcom's "Songs of Innocence and of Experience" under Leonard Slatkin and Sony's upcoming release of John Corigliano's "Symphony No. 3 for Large Wind Ensemble: Circus Maximus." Wiegard was invited to perform as a regional artist for the 2009 Mid-South Horn Workshop hosted by The University of Memphis.

Alumni Notes

Sandra Chaney McMillen (B.M.E. '67) was named Outstanding District Director of Mu Phi Epsilon Professional Music Fraternity at the 2008 International Convention. This is the third time during the past 17 years McMillen has received this honor for her work with collegiate chapters at Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, University of North Texas, Texas A&M University—Commerce, Tarleton State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, and alumni chapters in Dallas and Denton.

McMillen was elected international second vice president-collegiate adviser of Mu Phi Epsilon at the Jacksonville, Fla., convention and is a retired choral director/music instructor and private voice instructor in the Dallas area. She and husband Philip McMillen (B.S. '66) live in Duncanville and are the parents of two grown sons and three grandchildren.

Jim Hutson (B.M.E. '71, M.A. '73) retired in 2001 after a 29-year career as a high school band director. He now owns his own financial-services firm, The Jim Hutson Agency, in Amarillo. He is an avid supporter of musical arts and conducts the Panhandle Tuba Christmas Project each year.

Stephen F. Boaz (B.M.M.T. '80; M.A. '86): "My wife, Rama, and I recently relocated to the San Antonio area. We both work for the U.S. Postal Service, she as the district homeland security coordinator and me as a rural mail carrier. I hope to get back involved in a community band and church orchestra. Love the weather here!"

Kathy (Gebert) Fairbanks (B.M.M.T. '82): "I continue to play saxophone in the Athens Community Band, direct handbells at church, and work at a nursing and rehab facility. My son, William Zerfing Fairbanks IV, is in the Navy and stationed in South Carolina for now. He and his wife blessed us with a grandchild in May 2008. My oldest daughter, Rebekah, attends TVCC, sings in the choir, and is a member of the flag corps and plays flute in the band which her dad, William Zerfing Fairbanks III (WTAMU graduate, '83), directs. My youngest, Sarah, plays flute in the community band and Athens High School Band. Her flute trio went to state in May 2008."

Kay Anderson-Mote (M.A.Ed. '89): "I retired from Amarillo ISD on May 31, 2007, after receiving the Bob Ashworth Award for Outstanding Service to the district. I married Bob Mote, who was the elementary principal who hired me when I came to Olsen Park, July 14, 2007."

Tammie Rinehart Friberg (B.M.E. '86): "As far as music goes, I am a free-lance violinist in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. After my undergraduate work, I married Joe Friberg and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to complete an M.Div.BL degree. I am a theological curriculum writer and executive director of Equip Disciples, a non-profit global

missions organization (equipdisciples.org). We conduct leadership conferences for church leaders in Kenya, DR Congo, Rwanda and Costa Rica. We have three children, Joel (15), Michael (13) and Jessica (8)."

Candi Erwin McDonald (B.M.E. '92, M.A. '04): "Curtis (CW4 in the U.S. Army) is being restationed at Ft. McPherson in Atlanta, and we will be living there for about three years. I have been teaching private lessons in Killeen, and I hope to be able to establish a studio in Atlanta, as well. We are expecting our third and fourth grandchildren soon!"

Carissa (Buie) Hamilton (B.M. '00) is married to Cliff, director at SJ in Midland. Jonah Douglas Hamilton was born Dec. 20, 2007. He weighed 6 lbs., 8 oz. and measured 18 inches.

Raquel Rodriquez (B.M. '00, M.M. '01): "I recently auditioned for second trumpet in the Synergy Brass Quintet, a professional brass quintet that tours the nation and internationally. I won and accepted the position. I will join the group on tour in July. This is a full-time position that required me to resign from my position at Washburn University. I plan to return to academia in the future. The quintet has a busy schedule. Visit their website for more information and tour schedule: www.synergyquintet.com."

Tiffany (Tarr) Laur (B.M.T. '03): "I am a full-time stay-at-home mom for a 2½-year-old daughter, Phoebe. Our second is due April 2008. I am also working part time as a contract music therapist while attending grad school at WTAMU working on a master's in counseling."

Lyndi Williams Fisher, soprano, (B.M. '08) was invited to Armenia to sing with the Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra at Yerevean Opera House on Dec. 13, 2008. The concert, sponsored in part by the Ministry of Culture and the National Academy of Sciences, is a dedication to the 100th anniversary of the Soviet Armenian astronomer Viktor Ambartsumian and the 80th birthday of the American biologist James D. Watson. In addition, Fisher will take part in a dozen concerts in Yerevan during her month-long visit, appearing on talk shows and interviews on the country's major networks.

Fisher gave a premiere for the song cycle ("Three Songs About Love") and has recorded these for an upcoming CD project, collaborating with some of Armenia's most accomplished musicians, including Edward Manukyan.

Earning her bachelor's degree at WTAMU in 2008, Fisher now is a graduate student working on her master's degree in music performance and is a graduate assistant with the Department of Music. She is a student of Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, WTAMU associate professor of voice, and performs with Amarillo Opera.

Father-and-son collaboration, continued from page 1

Band will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo. Tickets can be purchased by calling (806)342-5600 or at Panhandletickets.com. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Musical selections for the Globe-News Center and the CBDNA

concerts will consist of "The Power of Rome" and "The Christian Heart" by Percy Aldridge Grainger, "Geschwindmarsch" by Paul Hindemith, "Apollo's Fire" by Glen B. Cortese, "Circus Polka" by Igor Stravinsky and "Symphony for Winds and Percussion" by Donald Grantham.



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Chairman's Column

Welcome to this edition of Ritornello. I hope you are having a good year.

There have been some changes in the Department of Music at West Texas A&M University this fall. After serving 10 years as head of the Department of Music, Dr. Ted DuBois stepped down in July. DuBois remains a full-time faculty member teaching both undergraduate, graduate music history, our undergraduate humanities class and overseeing our recital attendance. His contribution to the department throughout the past 10 years is widely recognized and greatly appreciated.

As a result of DuBois' resignation, I was asked to serve as interim department head until a search can be conducted. For those of you who do not know me, I am Ed Kahler. I am an associate professor of music and director of the Music Therapy Program. I have been at WTAMU for the past 10 years.

As you might have read in the last edition, Dr. Joseph Cox and Ron Lemon retired at the end of the academic year. Dr. Alexis Bacon also left our ranks, leaving our theory/composition position open again. We were very fortunate to recruit and hire four new faculty members. Dr. Benjamin (B.J.) Brooks joined us as our theory/composition professor. Jeremy Lewis is our new tuba/euphonium instructor, William Wiegard is our new horn instructor and Dr. Rai Morales is our new trombone professor and serves as assistant

director of the Buffalo Marching Band.

Another new and exciting addition to our department this year is the creation of a Faculty Brass Quintet. In addition to the three new brass faculty members (listed above), Dr. William Takacs and David Lough (a graduate student) comprise the new quintet. The quintet had their on-campus premiere performance



Dr. Edward P. Kahler

Nov. 11 to a large audience. We are very excited about the great potential and visibility the new faculty ensemble will bring to our department and University.

We enjoy hearing from our alumni. Please give us a call at 806-651-2840, send me an email at ekahler@wtamu.edu or come by for a visit in the Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex, Room 202.

Edward P. Kahler, Ph.D., MT-BC Interim Head, Department of Music Director of Music Therapy