

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas State University

Volume 16, Number 1

Fall 1992

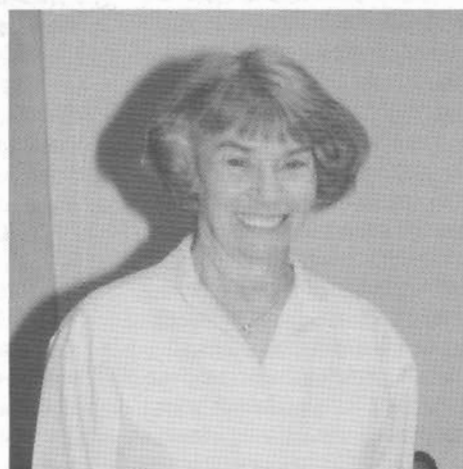


Dr. George Biffle, New Choral Director

Many of you may be surprised by our lead article, particularly since we announced in the spring issue of *Ritornello* that Milton Pullen would be the choir director this fall. Mr. Pullen had agreed to our offer but subsequently received a counter offer from his school district that he could not refuse. By the time the smoke had cleared in June, *Ritornello* had become a collector's item, ranking second only to a newspaper which had for its headlines "Dewey Defeats Truman." The selection committee went back to the drawing board but was still able to come up with another number one seed: Dr. George Biffle.

George was born in Lubbock, Texas. He received his early education in the Lubbock public schools and holds Bachelor of Music Education (organ; 1966) and Master of Music Education (voice; 1970) degrees from Texas Tech University at Lubbock. In 1990, he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Music from Arizona State University. Dr. Biffle has taught in the Amarillo public schools and held Director of Choral Activities positions at Amarillo College, McMurry University in Abilene, and Livingston University in Livingston, Alabama. While in Amarillo previously, he co-founded and conducted the Amarillo Civic Chorus and conducted the Amarillo Men's Chorus and the Amarillo Symphony Choral Society.

Dr. Biffle's choirs have appeared twice for the vocal division of the Texas Music Educators Association state convention, and once as the American Choral Directors Association representative to the Music Educators National Conference national convention in Miami, Florida. In addition, his choirs have toured Western and Eastern Europe, and he has served extensively as a choral clinician and adjudicator in the South and Midwest, and has directed over twenty Broadway-style musicals and opera productions in high schools, colleges, and community theaters.



Martha Morris Retires

Our second lead article is also a shocker. Mrs. Morris, the music department's librarian of more than twenty years, announced her retirement as of 31 August. A reception in her honor was given Monday afternoon, her last official day on campus. (Many of our retired faculty returned for that event, and we have a few pictures elsewhere in this issue of *Ritornello*.)

Martha began her job when the music library was located in room 112 of the Fine Arts Building. After a several years in a rather confined area, she moved to the space allocated in Northern Hall. She fondly remembers those many treks back and forth between buildings carrying recordings, cabinets, music, and equipment from FAB to their new destination. (As part of her retirement celebration, we reenacted those pioneering efforts in song and dance in a kind of "You Were There" format. Just kidding!)

Her academic degrees were in English, but since she did not have any formal librarian training and since the music library was not part of the main library, her title was that of "clerk." Whatever the original job description was, it could not have possibly covered all the things she did as music librarian. There were several times when I went into the music library only to find her under a table trying to fix one of the group listening stations. In times of austerity, she would cannibalize parts from one completely broken tape player to repair another machine that was only partly lame. She improvised whenever she could and became a Jack-of-all-trades for the department. Who do you think glued end panels which fell from aisle seats in Northern Recital Hall? (By the way, Martha, I picked up another one last week and put it on the shelf in the music library! It's waiting for you.) (Continued on the next page.)

Not only did we lose a fine music librarian, but, more importantly, we also lost the backbone of *Ritornello*. Dr. Matilda Gaume began *Ritornello* back in 1978, but when she retired as its editor in 1984, it was Martha who kept the *Ritornello* flame lit. She maintained contact with our alumni, secured current addresses, wrote the alumni notes, and constantly asked me when the next issue would be printed. Many times a *Ritornello* was returned with the annotation from the post office "No forwarding address." Martha would delete the mailing address we had, but leave the name as a reminder that we needed information. In between newsletter issues, Martha would pursue those names with a vengeance. The interesting thing about that is that she recovered lost sheep from time to time. She genuinely loved and was interested in the lives of our alumni, those whom she had assisted in her role as music librarian. (There were only a few undergraduates who knew everything and never had to go to the music library to listen to recordings.) What a "clerk" she was!

Martha, we send best wishes in your retirement years.

Orchestra News

The orchestra hit the ground running this year with an early performance at the Amarillo Civic Auditorium where they played for a program for the dancers. Our first home concert was Sunday, November 8. The feature soloist was HSQ member John Meisner, who performed the Bach Violin Concerto in E Major. Other selections included *España* by Chabrier, the final movement of the Stravinsky *Four Etudes*, and Borodin's Symphony No. 3.

Work is now underway for the December 4 Christmas concert, performed jointly by the orchestra and the choirs. This is generally the best-attended concert of the year and one the orchestra members always look forward to.

The spring semester brings the concerto concert, another of the biggest departmental events of the year. Each area of the department has a competition to select students for the final department-wide competition, which is intense and always produces a crop of outstanding student soloists.

Gary Garner

Choirs

The choral organizations at WTSU are off to an encouraging start. The Collegiate Chorus has been converted to a Women's Chorus and gave a good performance at our fall concert on October 29. The women are enthusiastic, eager, and fun to direct. I look forward to these young ladies' participation for the next several years. They are endowed with a lot of talent and great attitudes.

The WTSU Chorale is progressing very well and performed admirably on some rather difficult repertoire October 29. They are enjoying making the transition to a capella singing, a skill that has been missing for several years. Several of the pieces on the fall concert were indeed wonderful. We received a great response from several of the faculty in attendance that evening.

The Chorale is combining with the WTSU Orchestra on December 4 for our annual Christmas Concert. The program will include Pergolesi's *Magnificat*, Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, as well as several standard Christmas offerings. Make your plans to attend if you are in the area. I think you will be delighted to have come and will be ushered into the Christmas spirit.

Spring tour plans are yet to be finalized, but we will be appearing before most of the larger public school choirs in the Northern Texas Panhandle; check with your local high school choral director to see when we arrive at his/her school.

More on this later. Exes, we covet your support. Let us hear from you.

George Biffle

Music Therapy

The music therapy division has been busy as usual this fall. We have presented the first Outstanding Former Student award to Steve Wilder. The presentation was made by Dr. Thomposon at the alumni brunch during homecoming weekend. Seven hundred fifty dollars has been donated to the Martha Estes Music Therapy Scholarship. The first recipient will be announced in the spring; the scholarship amount will be \$300. We are very pleased with the beginning of a scholarship specifically structured for a music therapy student.

The annual conference in St. Louis will be attended by Martha Estes and students Amanda Brower, Rebecca Hayes, Amy Rogers, Stacey Hensel, Resa Joy, and Carolyn Brown. It's great to have students going to the national conference.

Martha Estes

Jazz News

Jazz at WTSU continues to bop along. We are fielding two bands this semester. (Mr. Doug Storey is directing the second band.) Our fall concert was November 24, and our spring concert will be presented on April 20. The band will be traveling to Colorado to participate in the Greeley Jazz Festival on April 24. This will be our second trip to Greeley, and we are looking forward to it.

In case you didn't know, we now have a Faculty Jazz Quintet which performs regularly. Besides our fall and spring concerts, we will be performing at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on January 9, and for the Quanah Community Concert Series on March 6. The members of the quintet are Jim Gardner, piano; David Rodriguez, bass; Susan Martin, drums; Doug Storey, clarinet and saxophone; and myself, trumpet.

For those of you who are directing jazz programs, I have a couple of recommendations for you. There is an excellent book for improvisation on the market now. It's *Jazz Improvisation: The Goal Note Method* by Shelton Berg, published by Lou Fischer Music Company. This is an excellent book that comes with a CD. I'm using this book in our improvisation classes with good results. Also, *The Jazz Ensemble Director's Manual* by Richard Lawn, published by C.L. Barnhouse, is an excellent source for information on running a jazz program.

Hope to see you at our concerts!

David Ritter

Alumni Notes

Dennis Richardson (73 BME) is choral director at Texas A&I in Kingsville while summers he works at completing a Ph. D. at Texas Tech.

Donna Bogan (76 BME, 87 MA) headed south to Alice ISD. She teaches elementary music "then travels to two middle schools, the junior high, and the high school to teach private lessons to 40 [!] oboe and bassoon students." She also has been hired as organist/choirmaster at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Alice. She reports "their choir runs 8-10 faithful singers with gusts to 12." Donna was performing with the Amarillo Civic Chorus while she lived and taught in Hereford.

Scott Herrington (76 BM, 83 MM, 83-84 choral conductor) is choral conductor at Wayland Baptist University in nearby Plainview. He received his DMA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in July.

Li-Ly Chang-Cunningham (77 MM) returned to campus this fall- in residence with her husband, saxophonist James Cunningham, for both a duo recital and master class. They were here as part of the Meadows Foundation Guest Artist Series.

Don Lefevre (79 BM) and **Darcy Walker** (91 BME) were married last May. He is assistant WT band director and teaches saxophone here, while she is band director at Sam Houston MS in Amarillo.

Cody Myers (79 BME) is director of bands at Midland High School.

Donna Horne Ham (80 BM) and husband Gary bought a new home in Lubbock. She continues to teach at Lubbock Christian University and Dunbar-Struggs HS. They and daughter Natalie welcomed newborn Abigail Ruth to the family this Oct.

Becky Brainerd (BME 81) and **Carlos Casso** (BMMB 85) married after TBA last summer. Carlos works in CD and cassette production /ads for Western Merchandisers. Becky is assistant band director at Randall HS and plays in the Amarillo Symphony.

Jan (Zook) Davis (81 BM) sent a Christmas letter and photograph last year. (Oops! I forgot to mention it in the spring issue, so here it is, one year later.) I think the last thing you knew was that Jan and Tracy, Jan's husband, were expecting twins. Jan had some problems, and the twins, Spencer and Maxwell, were born three months early. Maxwell died the following day. Spencer is really cute! (Remember, I have a photograph to look at.) Tracy is personnel manager of the Sacramento (California) Symphony and has quite a few playing engagements. Jan teaches music part-time at a K-8 school of 450 students, 70 of whom are in one of her two bands. Jan is still playing oboe, and she performed a concerto last December with the American River College Orchestra.

Steve Baird (82 BME) is back in the band hall as director at Tulia HS; he, wife Kathy and son Travis still live in Canyon.

Alan Asher (83 BM) married Michelle Bohart, an elementary music teacher who hails from Georgia. After receiving his MM from Cleveland Music Institute, Alan began DMA work at Florida State; he's near completion and doing a lot of violin gigs.

Richard Herrera (83 BME, 84 MA), married Lucinda, a kindergarten teacher from San Angelo. They're living happily in Brownfield, where he is BHS band director.



Elsa Porter and Mary Ruth McCulley at Martha Morris' Reception

Kenny Shore (84 BME, 91 MA) has a fine new family, Elizabeth Ann, and B.J. & Matt. She teaches English/Reading at Dumas JH, while Kenny has seven years as DJH-DHS assistant under his belt; he's also choral director at First Christian Church.

Rusty Gray (87 BME) is now head band director at Greenwood HS near Midland.

Lisa Garner (89 BM, 90 BMMB) is working on a doctorate at Rice University.

Nick Scales (89 BM) married Lori Sitton (MB intern) last June in Friendswood. Lori, also a bassist, is interning at Pender's Music Co. in Denton while Nick teaches double bass and completes an MM at UNT. The bride was beautiful and her uncle officiated.

Lisa Martinez (89 BME, 91 MA) is Iraan JH band director and assists **Scott Myers** (84 BME, 89 MA) at IHS.

Wildy Zumwalt (89 BM) stopped here on 9 December on his way home. He will finish his coursework for the doctorate at Florida State University next semester.

Andy Phillips (90 BME) is deep into scuba diving, though he has to go a long way from Sweetwater to find a suitable scenario.

Joe Woolsey (BME 90) is assistant band director at Borger HS; his wife Laura majors in sociology at WTSU. They were happy to return to the Texas Panhandle.

Theresa Wilhelm (90 BME) keeps busy all the time, teaching Lazbuddie 3-12 music/band director, or on hospitality with T*E*X*A*S.

Tina Wilkes (90 BME) has a MM from Florida State and is now working on her DMA at the University of Arizona in Tucson. She and David Sorgi gave a fine recital on campus in May '92.

Sara Newcomb (90 MT cert) is working in geriatric music therapy as activity director of Lubbock Hospitality House and greatly enjoys her position.

Grant Sorensen (90 BME), back in West Texas, assists at Midland HS and is band director at San Jacinto JH.

Melody Baggech (90 MM) is part time instructor of voice at Panhandle State University in Goodwell, OK. She's been with T*E*X*A*S four seasons.

This summer she married **Alan Marshall** (92 MM) who composes and performs around WT and, for five years, in T*E*X*A*S. Also, Alan is the WT choral graduate assistant and is Minister of Music at First United Methodist Church in nearby Tulia.

Donna O'Bryant (91 MA) directs the band at Memorial Parkway JH in Katy.

Russ Teweleit (91 BME) is assistant band director to **Robert Rumph** (84 BME; 86 MM) at Canyon HS.

Gary Willis (91 BME) is assistant band director at McCullough HS in The Woodlands (Conroe ISD).

Raoul Tejada (92 BME) is studying clarinet with Robert Marcellus at Northwestern University as well as taking other courses for an MM in performance.

Candi Erwin (92 BME) is Greenwood JH band director and assistant at GHS, southeast of Midland.

Todd Allan (92 BM) performed with National Repertory Orchestra as bassist last summer. He has joined the Air Force and after completing basic training this fall will be playing in a jazz band out of San Antonio.

Heather McCamey (92 BMMB) completed her internship at the Dallas Ballet and was hired to work full time for them to make scheduling, rehearsals, touring, and visiting artists go smoothly and efficiently.

Laura Skoglund (MT Intern) is interning at Nachusa Lutheran Home in Dixon, IL, working with emotionally disturbed, abused and behavioral disorders, ages 11-18. She completes in March, 1993.

Mechelle McFarland (MT Intern) is interning at San Antonio State Hospital and School.

Rod Zeman (1980s music student) is worship leader at Amarillo Bible Church. [See, Mrs. Morris would have known exactly when Rod was taking classes. All I can do is give a decade.]

We need your help. Please let us know what you are doing so that we can pass the word along to the other alumni. Don't be self-conscious about this, either. Don't you like to find out what others are doing? Well, they're also interested in you! Write us a short note (c/o Ted DuBois), and we'll make sure you're listed in the next edition of alumni notes.

Faculty Footnotes

Bill Evans and Norman J. Nelson are completing the third volume in the *Sight Reading for Band* series. It will be published by Southern Music Company early in 1993.

James Gardner appeared as piano soloist with the Plainview Symphony playing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and accompanied **Stephen Morscheck** at the National Vocal Symposium in Oberlin, Ohio.

Robert Hansen attended the Institute of Vocal Performance Pedagogy at Oberlin Conservatory where he sang on a participant recital. During the fall



Martha Morris and Matilda Gaume

semester he directed and performed the lead role in Stephen Sondheim's musical *Follies* in the Branding Iron Theatre. In September he performed the lead in Amarillo Opera's *The Legend of Columbus*—on 24-hour notice. In November he performed in the premiere of a new opera *The Thirteen Clocks* in San Francisco.

The Harrington String Quartet, **Dawn Harms** and **John Meisner**, violins, **Amy Brandfonbrener**, viola, **Emmanuel Lopez**, cello, was one of ten groups invited to participate in the Banff International String Quartet Competition in Banff, Canada, last April. Over the summer the Quartet was spread far and wide. Dawn was in Santa Fe, playing with the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra; John was at the New Hampshire Music Festival; Amy went back to Banff as Artist-in-Residence at the Banff Music Festival; and Emmanuel was a member of the Craftsbury Chamber Players in Vermont. This fall the quartet performed locally and on tour in Kentucky and Kansas. The spring will find them touring Northern California. Incidentally, Amy had a baby boy, Jonah Brandfonbrener Trout, born December 4.

Robert Krause spent the summer, as usual, teaching oboe at the Interlochen Arts Camp. He performed seven times on the Interlochen Faculty Recital Series and premiered a work for solo English horn, written by one of his students, on the Faculty Composers Forum. He also attended master classes given by oboists Brian Ventura of the Detroit Symphony, Wayne Rapiere of the Boston Symphony, and Joseph Robinson of the New York Philharmonic. In October he was heard

in Faculty Recital at WTSU playing works of Geminiani, Roussel, Brod, and Prokofieff, and as of May 1992, he assumed the position of Province Governor for Province 23 of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

David Murray, during an early October trip to Canada, gave a recital and master class in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and premiered a concerto for double bass by Robert Rohe, entitled "Yohanan," with Symphony New Brunswick in St. John. Later in the fall semester he will premiere *Studies for Contrabass* by Allan Blank of Richmond, Virginia, in recital at St. Peter's Church in Amarillo. Mr. Blank has also written a duo for bassoon and bass for Mr. Murray and Dr. Tina Carpenter, which will be performed in 1993.

Stanley Potter has added students from three more countries to his united nations-like studio. Now Venezuela, China, and Korea are represented in addition to Lebanon, Taiwan, and Japan.

Margaret Forrest attended the summer session of Richard Miller's Institute of Vocal Performance Pedagogy at Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, Ohio, for the second year.

Tina Carpenter successfully defended her doctoral treatise, "The Bassoon Music of Allan Blank (b. 1925): A General Style Analysis and an Examination of Expressive Properties in Three Representative Works," in January and was awarded the Doctor of Music degree from the Florida State University in April. She also taught and performed at the New England Music Camp in Oakland, Maine, during July and August.

Stanley Potter

1992-93 Meadows Guest Artist Series

The Department of Music and Dance at West Texas State University announced a stellar 1992-93 season for the Meadows Guest Artist Series. It is the most diverse recital series ever offered on the WTSU campus. The series consists of recitals and master classes presented by performers of exceptional artistic achievement.

Beginning the series was the Cunningham Duo, renowned saxophonist James Cunningham and his pianist wife Li-Ly Chang. Ms. Chang is a WTSU alumna and a source of great pride for our music department. The Cunninghams have performed with great acclaim throughout the United States as well as in Europe and the Far East. The Duo presented a master class on saxophones on Thursday afternoon, October 8, and a recital on Friday, October 9.

The second program of the series on October 27 and 28 was presented by the Debussy Trio, the unique combination of harp (played by Marcia Dickstien), flute (Angela Wiegand), and viola (Keith Greene). The trio takes its name from the work by Claude Debussy. Named Young Artist of the Year by *Musical America*, this gifted ensemble is internationally known for its attractive, varied programming and championing of new repertoire. The ensemble is a recent recipient of an NEA grant.

Third on the series is distinguished pianist-composer William Doppmann. Mr. Doppmann has concertized in the United States, Mexico, Europe, and the Far East, and has appeared as soloist with numerous major orchestras. As a composer he has been a recipient of two NEA grants, a Guggenheim Fellowship,

and a Performing Arts Grant from the Washington State Arts Commission. His compact disc recording, "American Piano Sonatas," will be released in 1993 by CRI. Of him the press has said, "Once in a great while there comes an artist whose performance defies description or superlatives, and who by choice of program and means of execution creates an aura of pure music." Mr. Doppmann's master class will be Wednesday afternoon, February 3, and his recital will be on Thursday, February 4.

The final program of the series will be presented by noted organist Gillian Weir, who has been hailed as, in great measure, responsible for the new image of concert organists. Her repertoire is vast and varied. Her television series for BBC-2, "The King of Instruments", was a huge success. Ms. Weir is the first woman organist to be awarded the CBE (Commander of the British Empire). Her recital will be given in Northen Hall on Tuesday, March 30, and a master class will follow on Wednesday afternoon.

The Meadows Guest Artist Series is presented for the University community and the general public free of charge through the generosity of the Meadows Foundation and with the assistance of the Department of Music and Dance at West Texas State University.

Stanley Potter

Did you know that....?

Did you know that Mrs. Kim Storey, wife of WT clarinet professor Doug Storey, is the new music librarian? She will continue her duties as secretary of the summer band camp.

Did you know that the Village Drive Inn (1957-1992) closed last May after over 3 1/2 decades of serving succulent

chicken fried steak, chili cheeseburgers, and V-burgers with fries? Managers Richard and A.L. Pruett plan to fish a lot or play golf. It's all only a memory now, fellas!

Did you know that Dr. Steve Morscheck, WT Assistant Professor of Voice, has resigned his position effective immediately to pursue a professional singing career? He was one of three applicants (of more than 450) selected to participate in a three-year program with the Lyric Opera of Chicago Center for American Artists. Break a leg, Steve! (That's theatre talk. But in it's most literal sense, it expresses our frustration of losing a fine performer and valuable faculty member. Setting aside, for a moment, our If-we-can't-have-him-no-one-else-can! professional jealousies, we sincerely do wish him the very best.)

Did you know that WTSU's name will be changed to West Texas A&M University on 1 June 1993? Plans are underway to allow former graduates to purchase a WTAMU diploma. More details will follow.

Did you know that the Mac Lab will be run by the music department beginning in January? Classroom N-156, which is adjacent to and part of the Mac Lab, is also filled with computers, so there will be something in the neighborhood of 40 computers available. Classes in graphic arts, journalism, computer-assisted music notation, and so forth, can now be held in the lab, thus allowing students the opportunity of immediate hands-on experiences rather than taking notes and trying it in the computer lab at a later date. A computer will also be installed in N-225 and will enhance teaching with the latest developments in computer technology.

TMEA Reception

Friday, 12 February
9:30 p.m.
Menger Hotel
(Same place as last year.)

Important Dates

Friday, 29 January
Career Day, Scholarship Auditions,
and Faculty Grand Recital

Friday, 2 April
Showcase Concert

Saturday, 3 April
Scholarship Auditions

Saturday, 3 May
Scholarship Auditions

Band News

We're back in the football business again: five home games and a trip to Stephenville for the game with Tarleton State. The trip was exhausting (we arrived back in Canyon at 6:00 a.m.), but lots of fun. We stopped Friday night in Snyder where we marched at their game and were royally hosted by Walter Reneau and his very fine Snyder HS Band. It was great to run into several band exes, including Phil Goodson, Judy Wilson Smallwood, Kelly and Manny Martinez, Elizabeth Robbins Garcia, and Lynn McLarty.

We're looking forward to concert season. At the time of this writing, symphonic band auditions are just around the corner, after which we'll begin preparing both bands for the Christmas concert on Sunday, December 6. Band tour is scheduled for February 24-26. This year we'll travel to the Dallas area and expect to see many of you along the way.

Robert Frost is spearheading an effort to raise money for band scholarships. The current hard economic times have combined with increasingly large offers from other schools to make scholarships even more important than ever. There were a dozen or more band students who were unable to come to school this year, or have had to drop out, because of financial difficulties. There were several others who wanted to come but were lured away by the promise of larger scholarships at other schools. You can expect to hear from Robert and his committee sometime soon. We hope and expect that this effort will help enable us to continue to attract top students to WTSU.

Gary Garner

Seven Music Faculty Awarded Emeritus Status

Twenty-seven special West Texas State University retired faculty members who gave much of their lives to the university have been awarded the title of Professor Emeritus. Representing more than eight centuries of combined service, the recipients are the first in the history of the university to receive the ranking.

The titles were officially confirmed by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents at its July 23 and 24 meeting, upon nomination by University President Barry B. Thompson and a recommendation by TAMUS Chancellor Herbert H. Richardson.

"I felt the time to recognize the contributions of so many people who have given their lives to education and especially West Texas State University was long overdue," Thompson said. "These people have contributed a great deal to the university and their fields, and it is important that we not forget those contributions."

Nominations of deserving individuals were made by faculty members and administrators with faculty ranking. The prime selection criterion for conferring the title was "a significant contribution through long and distinguished service to the university in administration, teaching, research and professional service. Any person with faculty rank who has retired from the university after at least 10 years of full-time employment is eligible for consideration for Emeritus rank."

The following music faculty were honored at the August commencement exercises. Our list includes the individual's academic rank while at WT and the years of service.

Mr. Royal Brantley, Associate Professor of Music, 1953-87.

Mr. Rowie Durden, Assistant Professor of Music, 1959-92.

Dr. George Eason, Professor of Music, 1962-86.

Dr. Matilda Guame, Professor of Music, 1945-76.

Mr. Emerson Haraden, Assistant Professor of Music, 1967-77.

Ms. Mary Ruth McCulley, Associate Professor of Music, 1955-89.

Ms. Elsa Porter, Assistant Professor of Music, 1956-89.

Opera Workshop

After a rollicking spring production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*, the opera workshop tackled its most challenging project to date: Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*. The fall production, produced in continuing cooperation with the theatre department, had a four-performance run to packed houses. Lavish costumes graced a massive set recreating the spectacle of an earlier form of Broadway entertainment. The story is challenging: at a reunion of the Follies girls, thirty years after the show closed, the now middle-aged former stars share and come to grips with their pasts. Over seventy performers were involved, including the WTSU Dance Ensemble, choreographed by Neil Hess, and a pit orchestra of twenty-three players.

The spring opera performance will be Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. In addition, a performance of chamber opera and scenes will give more students an opportunity to try their wings on stage. A highlight of the spring semester will be the first offering of a new course in techniques for the singing actor, team-taught by opera director Dr. Robert Hansen and our staff vocal coach, James Gardner. We look for the spring to be a real growth opportunity for the talented students our department is fortunate to attract.

Robert Hansen

This space could be filled with alumni notes, but we don't have anymore, so I am forced to relate music history anecdotes. A word to the wise: don't let this happen again.

Henri Temianka, a famous violinist and founder of the Paganini String Quartet (1946-66), wrote a book, *Facing the Music*, wherein he reminisces about his experiences over a lifetime of musicmaking. We have enough space for one paragraph. If you would like to read the entire book (instead of waiting for the installment version), it was published by David McKay Company in 1973. No offense to conductors is intended.

"What has brought on this mania for conducting by heart? (A misnomer, by the way, because many who conduct from memory do so without heart.) It all started with Toscanini. Now I have no quarrel with a man conducting by heart when he

has a photographic memory. The trouble is that some men who pretend to conduct 'by heart' have no memories at all, relying on their orchestras like riders who rely on their horses to find the way back to the stable. One irate concertmaster when asked what the Maestro was conducting at the next concert, answered, 'I don't know what he is going to conduct, but we are playing Beethoven's Fifth!' Dame Myra Hess, the famous English pianist, is reputed to have asked Beecham, 'Sir Thomas, are you again going to conduct by heart?' 'Certainly,' said the conductor affably. 'In that case,' she said, 'I am going to use my music.' Once Otto Klemperer was interviewed by a journalist who wanted to know why he used a score when so many others conducted from memory. 'Because,' replied the German master majestically, 'I can read music.'"



1992-93 Music Faculty

Front row, seated left to right: Steve Morscheck, voice; Harry Haines, department head; Ron Lemon, horn; Donna Flatt, department secretary; Sue Park, dean; Stephanie McCown, recruiting assistant; Tina Carpenter, bassoon; Kim Storey, music librarian; Barbara Wooldridge, band secretary; Amy Brandfonbrener, viola; Dawn Harms, violin; John Paul Mauldin, dance assistant; Crystal Campbell, dance assistant.

Back row, left to right: Ted DuBois, music history; George Biffle, choir conductor; Neil Hess, dance; Martha Estes, music therapy; Alan Marshall, choir assistant; Joe Cox, trombone; Doug Storey, clarinet; David Ritter, trumpet; Joe Nelson, music theory; Emmanuel Lopez, cello; Gary Garner, band and orchestra conductor; Don Lefevre, assistant band director and saxophone; Stanley Potter, piano; Susan Martin, percussion; John Meisner, violin; James Gardner, organ; Margaret Forrest, voice; Robert Hansen, voice; and Robert Krause, oboe.

Not pictured: Mary Helen Demus, piano; Bill Evans, piano; Fred Johnson, guitar; David Murray, double bass; Sally Turk, flute; Theron Rose, band assistant; René Rodriguez, band assistant; Thomas Robertson, accompanist, and Amy Beebe, voice assistant.

RITORNELLO

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