

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance
West Texas A&M University



Volume 18, Number 1

Fall 1994

Mariellen Garner 1932-1994

Mariellen Griffin Garner died July 26th in San Antonio. She was born in Isabella, Tennessee, but grew up in Plainview, Texas. She attended Texas Tech University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in music education. She married Gary Garner on July 5, 1951.

The Garners have three children: Brad, a teacher at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Bryan, a lawyer in Dallas, and Blair, a radio announcer in Los Angeles. I asked Bryan for some assistance in writing this column and he responded with the following:

I have been asked to say a few words about my mother and her relationship with the WT Band. She played a major role in the life of the band for 31 years--from 1963 to 1994--that is, for precisely half of her lifetime. Some of the most successful programs in the music department, such as the Band Olympics and the Showcase of Music concert, were the direct products of her creativity and drive.

But there is no use in trying to quantify her contributions through programs that she created or dollars that she raised over the

years. The true measure of her contributions to the WT Band lies in the number of students' lives that she touched with her inimitable brand of sweet encouragement. She enriched the quality of student life at WT for hundreds of students throughout the years. At the same time, though, her own life was much the richer for having known so many wonderful band students.

A "Mariellen Garner Memorial Scholarship" has been established for the West Texas A&M Band. Those who wish to participate in this memorial are invited to send their contributions to the following address:

Mariellen Garner Memorial
Scholarship Fund
WTAMU Development Office
Canyon, Texas 79016

Mrs. Garner was a tireless worker. As a volunteer, she gave more of her time to WTAMU Music than any other person. We miss her.

Harry Haines

ALUMNI NOTES

Dr. Juanelva Rose (BME '58) who teaches piano, theory, music history and piano pedagogy at Tunghai Univ. in Taichung, Taiwan, visited friends and relatives in the Panhandle this summer. Juanelva founded the music department at Tunghai and acted as its chairman for 16 years. She also does extensive concertizing and teaching in the Orient and SE Asia, including an August concert and master class series in Indonesia with Hsu-I-Lin, soprano, and a September trip to the Sz-Chuan Conservatory to teach for three weeks. In spring 1995, Juanelva plans to go to Wollongang University in Australia for one month as an exchange professor. While at WT, Juanelva gave three senior recitals - on piano, organ, and clarinet - and she still performs on all three instruments. Dr. Matilda Gaume writes, "Does anybody care to try to keep up with this extraordinary woman who is indeed a credit and an inspiration to all struggling young musicians?"

Dorothy Alexander Wells (BS '69) teaches in North East ISD in San Antonio where she continues to build on the reputation she established in Amarillo as one of the world's most dedicated and gifted teachers. Husband Ron is Director of Fine Arts in the same district.

J. Bryan Burton (BME '71) continues to be Associate Professor of Music Education at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. In addition, he is an active clinician and lecturer across the United States. His book *Moving Within the Circle:*

Contemporary Native American Music and Dance is now in its second printing and he has a new book set for publication in the fall titled *When the Earth Was Like New: Stories and Songs of the Apache People.*

This past year has been a busy one for **Rodney Miller** (BM '74), Director of Vocal Studies at New York University. In June, he traveled to China with his wife, mezzo Pina Mozzani, as guests of the conservatories in Beijing and Tianjin where they presented workshops for the advanced opera students and performed recitals of American vocal music. In August, he was on Romanian National Television at the Constanza Festival singing the first concert of American musical theater music in Romania. He will be returning to Romania to sing Don Basilio in *Barber of Seville* and to star in *Hello Dolly*, the first production

of an American musical in an eastern bloc country. In September his book, *Institutionalizing Music*, was published by Charles Thomas Publ. Rodney lives in the heart of Greenwich Village with his wife and two children, Rachael and Matthew.

Ron Davis (BM '79, MM '80) is in his seventh year as the director of bands at Marble Falls HS in Marble Falls, TX. His Symphony Band was selected as the class 3AAA representative from Texas at the National Adjudicator's Invitational Festival in Washington, D.C. The band's Kennedy Center performance earned 1st runner up honors in the Senior HS Division competing against bands from all over the US.

Donna Horne Ham (BM '80) recently gave birth to daughter number three, Bethany Delle Ham.

Bob Tollison (BGS '80) works for Triad Systems Corp. in the computer business and recently convinced his boss to transfer him from Northern California back to Texas. He now lives in San Antonio where his two children, Austin (13) and Molly (11) also reside. "Life is good!" he says.

Cloyce Beard Stradley (BM '84, MM '86) has performed in TEXAS nine seasons, as Kate Lucas for seven years, then as Aunt Anna in '93 and '94, and that's just for summer vacations. The rest of the year she teaches studio voice at WTAMU, plus appears in Amarillo Opera productions such as *The Barber of Seville* and *Madame Butterfly*. Strong support is provided by husband Brad and 2-year old Colin.

Janie Howard (BM '85, MM '87) stopped by campus in August on her way to Sacramento, CA where she hopes to do more singing.

John Reimund (BME '87, MM '93) is teaching in the Brownsville ISD at Pace HS. He is working with the low brass as well as assisting with the marching and concert band. John continues to perform on his tuba with area groups. He and wife Julie are expecting a child in December.

Mark Terry (BME '87) celebrated his fourth anniversary as Minister of Music at Green Valley Baptist Church in Henderson, Nevada - a suburb of Las Vegas. His wife, Sonya, teaches 8th grade algebra in a local junior high school. They are the proud parents of David Nelson Terry born April 1, 1994 (how appropriate!).

Ameka Badgett (BM, BMT '88) and **Mike Mobley** (BME '85, MA '87) were married last August in Amarillo. Ameka worked several years for High Plains Baptist Healthcare Systems as music therapist; now she is Activities Director and Director of Music Therapy Services at Ware Memorial Care Center, a new assisted-living facility which is a part of that same system. Mike is Director of Choral Activities at Amarillo's Caprock HS and Director of Music Ministries at Kingswood United Methodist Church. Best wishes and congratulations to you both!!

DeLee Francis (BM Bus '88) was recently promoted to general manager of Pender's Music Co.'s Oklahoma City location, after serving as the Denton store's purchasing agent for five years.

Jeanette Grotogut Dreifuerst (BME '88) had a baby boy, Christian Bernhard, on September 11, 1994. She teaches grades K-6 in a Catholic school and also gives piano lessons to both adults and children.

Louellen Meyer (BME '89, MA '90) is living in San Angelo with husband, Robert, and two young children. She works with the young children's music programs in her church and occasionally plays chamber music.

Eliza Ramirez (BME '89) is in her first year at the new Vidal Treviño School of Fine Arts and Communication in Laredo where she is the woodwind specialist.

Wang Min and **Wen-Man** (MM '91) have started their own school, *Clavier*, in the LA area.

Kirsten Nelson (BM '92) completed her Master of Music degree in Bassoon Performance at the University of Georgia. She has entered the doctoral program in bassoon at the University of Georgia where she teaches freshman and sophomore aar training and four secondary bassoon students.

Christi Womble (BFA '92) just keeps on dancin' whenever she can: as assistant at Hess School of Dance, in Lone Star Ballet productions, in TEXAS company tours to Austin, Atlantic City, London, then for former president George Bush's campaign and in almost all WTAMU Dance Ensemble productions.

Fouad Fakhouri (BM '94) attends Penn State University, working on a master's degree in composition and being a GA in theory.

Katrina Robinson Perales (BMMB '94) was such an excellent intern to **Mila Gibson** (BME '66, MA '69) at Amarillo Opera, Inc., that she was hired this fall as executive assistant. She has performed in several WTAMU musical productions, on TEXAS hospitality staff and as cast singer, and in **Gene Murray's** (BME '56, MA '61) operas *Sophie's Saloon* and *Whirligig* in the AO, Inc. area outreach program. Husband Jerry has done choral directing for TEXAS for many years.

BAND/ORCHESTRA

At this writing, the orchestra is busily preparing for the fall opera. Actually, it's two short operas: Puccini's *Gianni Schicci* and *Suor Angelica*. Both present formidable orchestral challenges, to which the students have responded ably and enthusiastically. As always, the weekly sectionals provided by members of the Harrington Quartet and bassist David Murray have been invaluable.

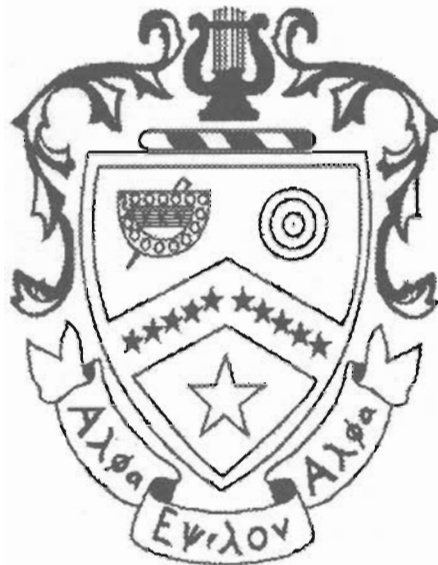
The final performance of the year will be the annual Christmas concert in combination with the WT Chorale on Friday, December 2 at 8:00 p.m.

The marching band has enjoyed one of its best marching seasons ever under the expert tutelage of director Don Lefevre. Senior music major Mike Ellis wrote a truly spectacular drill and the band's performances have received a tremendous crowd response, including a prolonged standing ovation at the Midwestern game in Wichita Falls.

After a grueling five weeks of consecutive performances, the band has a three-week respite before the final game on November 5 during which they will divide into Symphonic and Concert Bands in order to get a head start on their semester-ending concerts. The Symphonic Band concert is Sunday, December 4 at 8:00 p.m. and the Concert Band's is Tuesday, December 6 at 8:00 p.m.

TMEA Reception

Friday, 10 February
9:30 p.m.
Menger Hotel



ATTENTION ALPHA PSI ALUMNI

The Alpha Psi chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi is starting an alumni association. The purpose of the association is to keep all alumni informed of events and projects that the Alpha Psi chapter is involved with. Also, since the 1995-96 school year is the 50th anniversary of the Alpha Psi chapter, we are planning a reunion of all Alpha Psi alumni and current members.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the alumni association, please remit the following along with a \$5.00 processing fee (name, address, phone and a brief description of yourself). Thank you for your attention to this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Junior Marquez, Liaison Officer

Alpha Psi Chapter
Kappa Kappa Psi

MEADOWS FOUNDATION SEASON, 1994-95

The Meadows Guest Artist Series began this fall with numerous sessions in the Alexander Technique taught by Alice Pryor of Austin.

Virtually every music and dance student and many faculty attended at least one session. The series continued with a recital and master class by young Russian pianist Mikhail Yanovitsky. His program included the Op. 25 Etudes of Chopin. On November 4, a

Liederabend devoted to Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin* will be performed by University of North Texas faculty David Sundquist and Harold Heiberg. They will present a master class the following morning. The final recital and master class will be presented by WTAMU alumna Helen Blackburn and her percussionist husband Drew Lang on March 30 and 31.

CHOIR NEWS

Greetings from the choral music department. I thought I'd begin by giving you some information about our impending performances this year. The WT Chorale has already fulfilled one responsibility as the off-stage chorus for three performances of *Suor Angelica* on Oct. 11, 13, and 15. Our Fall Concert occurred in Northern Hall on October 20. The concert showcased Schola Cantorum (14 voices), the Collegiate Chorus (40 voices) and the WT Chorale (43 voices). On November 12, the WT Chorale will perform for and with the TMEA All Region Choir, again at Northern Hall. On November 19, we join forces with the Amarillo Civic Chorus, the ENMU choir, and the Amarillo Symphony in Boito's *Mefistofele*. Following immediately is our annual Choir-Orchestra Christmas Concert on Friday night, December 2. Schola Cantorum will be the voices at the Madrigal Dinner on December 3. By then we will be ready for Christmas! The Spring semester is taken up with choir tour to Oklahoma, WT Showcase and our Spring concert May 2, 1995.

All three choral groups have shown improvement in many areas, but we still have room for more singers. We hope to have a new chorus in place by the Fall of 1995, composed largely of non-music majors which will sing a concert each semester. It would be wonderful to have 100 members in this group at its inception. We are pleased with our progress and yet we have room for much growth. 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 Baffle



Dance Ensemble

DANCE NEWS

The WTMAU Dance Ensemble, directed by Neil Hess, began preparation for the new school year not long after the end of the previous one. This year the ensemble has enhanced its repertoire by adding dances representing the three cultures that shaped the history of the Panhandle: Indian, Spanish/Mexican, and Old West.

Choreography began in mid-July with Jaime Carrasco from El Paso. Jaime choreographed Flamenco, Folklorico, and Indian numbers on members of the ensemble. At the same time Patricia Tate from the University of Wyoming was setting a new ballet. The ballet, "Spirit Chief Names the Animal People," is an excerpt from her full length ballet "Winter Moons," based entirely on Native American themes. To add to our country and western repertoire, Jenny Powers, from Salt Lake City, returned for her second trip to Canyon. Jenny choreographed two country and western "clog" numbers to add to the ones she had previously done. The first week of the new semester brought Amy Talman and Richard Burgess from Texas A&M University. They are both members of a Native American organization at A&M and were here to introduce us to the Native American cultures, specifically through song and dance. Most recently the company has been working with Kyle Hawbaker from Amarillo. Kyle has been involved in Native American dance since the age of eight. He has helped us not only with dances, but also songs and costuming.

The goal of this venture is to take authentic dances and enhance them for theatrical presentation.

Performance wise, the ensemble started the year off by performing for the opening of Michael Martin Murphy's West Fest at Creekwood Ranch. The group made such an impression on the country star himself that Mr. Murphy made special arrangements to move them to the main stage area and add performances at the weekend event in Palo Duro Canyon.

The group has also been involved with other performances for the International Students, Trailways Bus Lines, Golden Plains Nursing Home, Amarillo Senior Citizens Center and Taste of the Arts.

The dance ensemble is now beginning its rehearsals, in cooperation with Lone Star Ballet, for the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker." The dates for performances of Nutcracker are December 9-11.

OPERA

Fall semester brought a new wrinkle to the usual schedule for the Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop, and the department as a whole. The annual musical (this year, the bright and colorful *Barnum!*) has been scheduled for the spring to coincide with the Branding Iron Theatre Hall of Fame induction. Hence, the opera was performed in the fall semester. The fall dates provided an excellent opportunity for the Opera Workshop to join forces with the

University Orchestra to present Puccini's famous short operas, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica*. The orchestra performed the operas as their first fall concert as Dr. Gary Garner led very successful performances from the pit. The large offstage chorus needed in *Suor Angelica* was provided by the WT Chorale, under the direction of Dr. George Biffle. Dr. Robert Hansen directed the productions, which featured 30 soloists, including voice faculty members Cloyce Stradley, Dr. Margaret Forrest, and Joe Ella Cansler. All in all, it was a department-wide affair. Audiences especially enjoyed our version of "Johnny Skeekey," updated to Dallas in 1994, complete with references to oil wells in Borger!

MUSIC THERAPY: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The 1994-1995 school year promises to be an exciting one for the Music Therapy department at West Texas. Fifty Music Therapy majors flood the halls of Northern Hall and come together on Thursday afternoons under the direction of the Music Therapy Club officers Jennifer Prensner, Stacy Adams, Julie Long, LeeAnn Jones, and Kristin Phillips. Many exciting things are planned this year including several service projects, Christmas caroling, touring the Clements prison, and the ever popular sign song prepared for the Showcase of Music in April.

The newest and most exciting news to hit the Therapy department is the opportunity for one student in the department to study at the world famous Nordoff and Robbins Music Therapy Clinic located at New York University. Martha Estes has contacted and visited the school to arrange that one, possibly two, students from West Texas will be allowed to study under the Robbins the spring semester of each year. This is a graduate program and the first student will be attending the school in the spring of this school year. The student from WTAMU will be an undergraduate. Amy Hammel-Gormley, a former student and candidate for the doctoral program at NYU, will be in charge of the program. The student selected will also have the opportunity to work alongside Amy at the Cornell Medical Center in White Plains. This is the only program of this kind currently in the country. The student will be required to return to West Texas and share the experience with the rest of the Music Therapy students and the therapists of this area. Selection will be from twelve students who have applied and will be based on musical ability, academics, therapeutic skills, and interpersonal skills. The students will be able to register for therapy classes at West Texas and the rest will be up to them. If you are interested in helping the funding of this project, please get in contact with Martha Estes. It should be a very exciting and rewarding year.

Music: The healer of the Heart and Soul!!!!!!!

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

JOE ELLA CANSLER has recently been studying with Dr. Patty Johnstone at the University of North Texas in preparation for her faculty recital January 22, 1995. She studied this summer at Oberlin Music Conservatory with Richard Miller. A new addition to our voice faculty, she has enjoyed performances with Robert Krause, oboe and English horn, Stanley Potter, piano, Dave Ritter, trumpet, and Doug Storey, clarinet. **JOSEPH COX** has been a very active performer in the Amarillo area, playing in the Amarillo Symphony, Randel Chamber Orchestra, and the Amarillo Opera. He will perform the Larsson Concertino with the Symphonic Band in April. He and Brenda are the proud grandparents of



Schola Cantorum

Avery Christen Taylor born to his daughter Janice. **DAWN HARMS** took a leave from the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra to teach at the Killington Music Festival in Killington, Vermont. There were 90 students from Juillard, Manhattan, Eastman, and Rice Schools of Music. She played every Sunday on the Faculty Concert Series as soloist or in a chamber group. The **HARRINGTON STRING QUARTET** is performing in Chicago at Lutkin Hall on the campus of Northwestern University November 29. **DON LEFEVRE** premiered *Dance Pair* for alto saxophone and band by **NORMAN J. NELSON**. This work was performed on the 1994 spring tour with the WTAMU Symphonic Band conducted by Gary Garner. Mr. Lefevre also plans a fall performance with the Houston High School for the Performing Arts Wind Ensemble with WTAMU alumnus Nathan Carter conducting. **THOM ROBERTSON** was elected to a four-year term on the Board of the Association of Anglican Musicians during the 1994 convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This is an international organization with members throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Mr. Robertson will serve one year as vice president, two years as president, and a year as past president. He is organist/choirmaster at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Amarillo as well as instructor of organ and harpsichord at WTAMU. **SUSAN MARTIN** has had an eventful year. In March she married Dr. Syed Tariq Anwar, a professor in the College of Business, and during the summer was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts

from the University of Arizona. **ROBERT HANSEN** has been working on design plans for a vocal research laboratory at WTAMU, dedicated to developing instructional tools using technology. His work is funded by a Killgore Research Grant, and is being done in cooperation with local otolaryngologists Dr. William Hale, Dr. Geoffrey Wright, and Dr. Michael Guttenplan. Top priority for the project at the moment is securing funding for the equipment.

MARCHING BAND RECEIVES OVATIONS

The 1994 edition of the WTAMU Marching Band closed out the season with an enviable record ... every performance received a standing ovation. Even at Wichita Falls, the MSU fans gave the WT Band a thunderous standing ovation. New marching band director, Don Lefevre, gives the credit to this year's student leaders. "Our Band Council was great," says Lefevre. "Ensemble morale was sky-high, better than any director has a right to expect. And I know where this comes from--the student leaders. Our band council was terrific." Council members include: Karla Shaw, Klein Forest HS; Chesna Coker, Randall HS; David Martinez, Clovis, NM; Cynthia Beard, Brenham; Kelly Pace, Snyder; Robert Hinds, Amarillo HS; Mark Alewine, Altus, Oklahoma; Mike Sheffield, Canyon HS; Stephen Smoot, Slaton; Brian Collins, Midland Lee HS; Keith Sacane, Clovis HS; Vicki Glenn, Weatherford HS, and John Gaertner, Lawrenceville, Georgia.



1994-95 Music and Dance Faculty

Seated left to right: David Murray, Bass; Ron Lemon, Horn; Harry Haines, Department Head; Vicki Glenn, Graduate Assistant; Keith Sacane, Graduate Assistant. First row left to right: Robert Hansen, Voice; Martha Estes, Music Therapy; John Meisner, Violin; Joe Ella Cansler, Voice; George Biffle, Director of Choirs; Crystal Campbell, Graduate Assistant; Sally Turk, Flute; Amy Brandfonbrener, Viola; Tina Carpenter, Bassoon; Dawn Harms, Violin. Second row left to right: Gary Garner, Director of Bands/Orchestra; Dave Ritter, Trumpet; Robert Krause, Oboe; Emmanuel Lopez, Cello; Susan Martin Tariq, Percussion; Cloyce Beard-Stradley, Voice; Margaret Forrest, Voice; Neil Hess, Director of Dance; Doug Storey, Clarinet; Joe Cox, Low Brass; Donna Flatt, Department Secretary; Stanley Potter, Piano; Mark Alewine, Graduate Assistant; Caryn Herick, Graduate Assistant; Thom Robertson, Organ; Barbara Wooldridge, Band Secretary; Don Lefevre, Saxophone/Assistant Director of Bands. Not pictured: Mary Helen Demus, Piano; Ted DuBois, Music History/Graduate Advisor; Bill Evans, Piano; Joe Nelson, Theory.

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