

# RITORNELLO

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



Volume 22, Number 1

Fall 1998

### Symphonic Band to Play at TMEA

The Symphonic Band is performing for the 10th time at TMEA this year. The concert is Thursday, Feb. 4 at 8:00 p.m. We're also doing another clinic, as we did last year, at 8:00 a.m. the next morning. The title of the clinic is "Rhythm, Pitch, and Style: The Big 3."

I'm sure there are many who'll be reading this from each of the previous TMEA bands in the years 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996 and that all will remember the tremendous thrill and excitement that accompanies these events. You can be sure it's no different this year. With TMEA coming a week earlier than usual, we're feeling a lot of pressure to be ready, but this is a very talented group and I have no doubt that they'll represent us in a way that will make all of you proud.

We're playing a home concert on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 8:00 p.m., followed by a concert at the Amarillo Civic Center on Monday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. On the way to San Antonio we'll be playing at Coronado HS in Lubbock on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., at Frenship HS the next morning at 8:45 a.m., at Lamesa HS at 11:30 a.m., and at Central HS in San Angelo at 8:00 p.m. On the 4th, we'll be playing at Brady HS at 10:00 a.m., then on to San Antonio. We hope to see many of you along the way.

The program will feature a new commission by Bernard Hoffer, *Morning in St. Lucia*, an 18-minute work in three movements. Our soloist

this year will be Doug Storey, our clarinet teacher, who will be performing the Bernstein *Prelude, Fugue, and Riffs*, conducted by Don Lefevre. The program will open with the Smetana "Overture" to *The Bartered Bride* and conclude with Elgar's *Enigma Variations* (take note, those who were in the '77 band!).

See you in San Antonio.

Gary Garner

### Stanley Potter Retires

Mr. Stanley Potter retired on July 31 after more than 35 years of service to the music department and to the university. (By retiring in the middle of summer when no faculty are around and giving no advance warning, he was successfully able to avoid the lavish farewell party that we would have thrown, but which we now owe him.) Stanley began his tenure at WTAMU in 1962. He had received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas, a master's degree from Michigan State University, and had completed advanced course work at the University of Texas, Austin. A Fulbright Scholarship took him to Paris, France. For many years he participated in the Mu Phi Epsilon Recital Series in Dallas. He was quite active in the American Music Teachers Association and had often been sought for adjudication duties. He served on several important department committees, one of which was as co-editor of *Ritornello*. Our connection to the Far East was through Mr. Potter, who, because of his many contacts,

attracted talented students to his piano studio. He also patiently worked with these students to help them improve their language skills. His greatest legacy is the long list of students who have distinguished themselves in their own careers because of Stanley's influence and guidance. Best wishes for a long and prosperous retirement, Stanley.

### Choir News

Greetings from the choral department!

We've had a very successful start to the 1998-99 school year. The fall concert featured both choral groups in a variety of mostly contemporary music, performing to a better-than-average-sized audience. The Collegiate Chorus achieved new heights of performing artistry since I became Director of Choral Activities in 1991. They really received lots of praise and commendation. The Chorale's featured performing work was Dello Joio's "Song of the Open Road," which featured trumpet soloist Raquel Rodriguez. Our new accompanist, Noel Paul Laur, performed very well. It was a pleasure to have him take over that position as Karla Qualls has moved to Florida State to pursue her doctorate. We miss her, but we wish her great success in her new endeavors.

Our next concert was the Choral/Orchestral Christmas Concert Dec. 5th. Northern Recital Hall was full and eager to kick off the Christmas season with us. We  
(continued on page 4)

## Showcase of Music Donors

We have a lot of supporters for our music department. In the fall issue of *Ritornello* we provide a list of individuals who contributed to the scholarship fund through the Showcase of Music concert in Amarillo, because some of you weren't able to attend that concert and see your name printed in the program. We were able to clear \$12,000 for music scholarships, and the dinner was able to establish a Dudley Moore Scholarship from its proceeds. Again, thanks for your continued support.

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**Choir** (continued from page 1) performed Buxtehude's "The Newborn Babe" and Dr. Joe Nelson's five Christmas carol arrangements with the orchestra, Dr. Garner conducting. The Chorale continued the tradition of singing several traditional carols for the audience, followed by a choir-audience-brass ensemble carol sing. The choirs then ended the concert with the traditional "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," an Irving Berlin Christmas medley, and a recessional after surrounding the audience singing "Silent Night" with flute, tenor solo, and keyboard. It was a very effective ending to a wonderful concert.

This spring the Chorale tours to the Texas Valley (Harlingen, Brownsville, etc.) Feb. 14 through 18 (home concert on Saturday, Feb. 13), and both choirs perform on midterm (Feb. 28) and spring (April 27) concerts. We are looking forward to hearing from our exes. Some of you have written, and others have e-mailed us. Our address is [gbiffle@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:gbiffle@mail.wtamu.edu). Please let us hear from you.

George Biffle

### Editor's Note

This is a quick *Ritornello*. Dr. Melvyn Raiman, who began his duties as department head in August, resigned in December, taking with him the "newsletter" that he claimed to have been working on all semester. I was unsuccessful in obtaining text from him, but he did promise to send a finished product by Christmas (I was remiss in not clarifying the year). It's January 11, and we can't wait any longer. You need your *Ritornello*, and you need it now!

I've asked several faculty to write articles about activities that might be of interest to you (which they willingly obliged), and we'll try to fill in the holes with the spring issue.

In the meantime we're back to an interim department head, and I certainly hope to have a lead article about the new department head for the next issue.

Thanks to many of you who returned the alumni survey. Our

NASM reaccreditation visit comes at the end of March, and the information you supplied will help us address our strengths and weaknesses for the visitation team.

One of the things that we have thought about is to collect e-mail addresses of alumni and then maybe publish a list in the spring issue of *Ritornello* so that you could have direct contact with each other and not have to wait for us. At the same time, we want to protect your anonymity from junk mail. If you have any thoughts about that, please let us know.

In the meantime, we still want to hear what you are doing for the alumni notes. Please send your news to [tdubois@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:tdubois@mail.wtamu.edu).



**Pianist Denise Parr-Scanlin**

### New Pianist

The music department was fortunate to be able to hire Denise Parr-Scanlin on an emergency basis for the piano position that became vacant with Mr. Potter's retirement. (By the way, we are conducting a nation-wide search for a permanent position, and the deadline to receive applications is Jan. 20. Mr. Bill Evans chairs the search committee.) Denise is an accomplished pianist who has resided in Amarillo for the last eleven years. She has accompanied many senior recitals on the Northern Recital Hall stage over the last few years. She has performed as a soloist with the Randel Chamber Orchestra. In addition to her teaching schedule at WTAMU, she has an active piano studio in Amarillo.

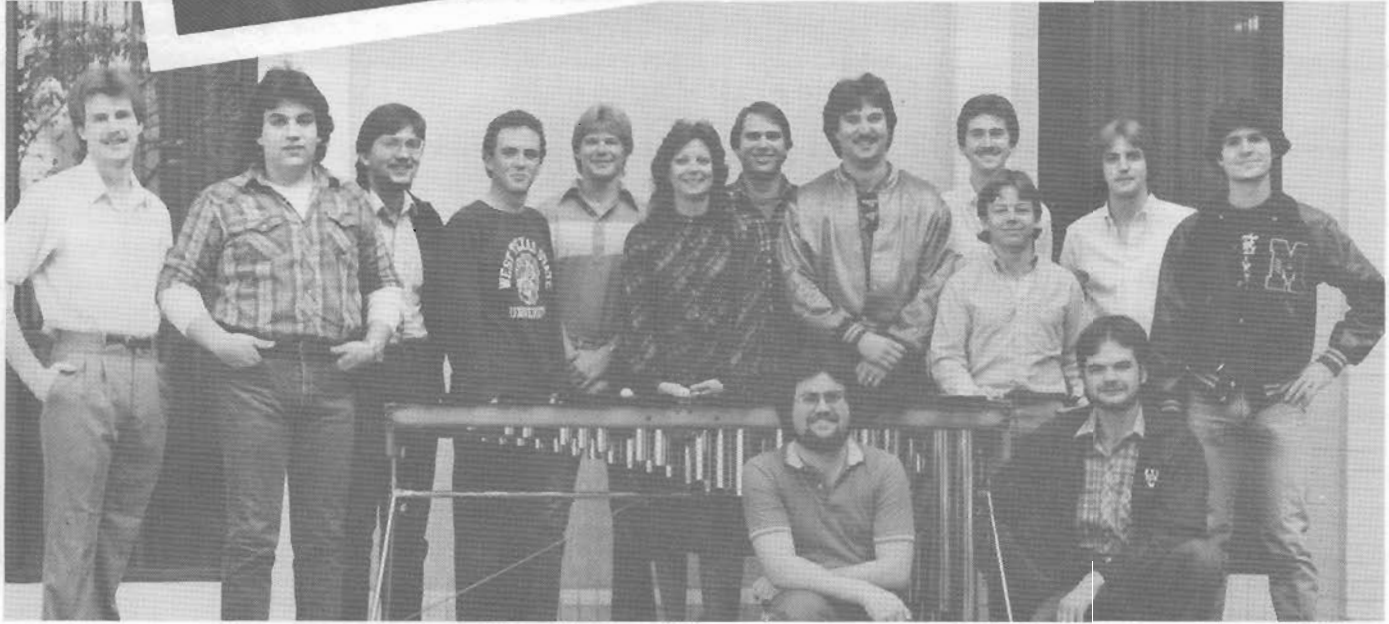
Denise received her bachelor's degree in piano performance and a master of fine arts degree in piano performance from the University of Georgia. Her teaching appointments were instructor of music at North Georgia College and assistant professor of music at Mercer University Atlanta. She has French connections in that she studied in Paris with—pay attention, music history buffs—Nadia Boulanger (private lessons in harmony and classes in analysis) and Yvonne Loriod-Messiaen (of *Les Ondes Martenot* fame, wife of Olivier Messiaen).

### Alumni Notes

**Lynn McLarty** ('66 BME) wrote to us this summer: "I continue to live in Snyder, TX, where I work as chief pilot for Patterson Energy, Inc. Aviation, although a far cry from music education, has been a rewarding and enjoyable profession. I have flown as a corporate pilot since 1969, and I've been in Snyder since 1980. Patterson is now the second largest onshore oil well drilling contractor in the world, so as you might expect, our flying takes us all over the country. I plan to retire during the next 3-5 years. Upon retirement, Deb and I will devote full time to our small business, Texas Lizard Connection, a partnership with my oldest daughter and son-in-law. Deb is a principal with the Windham ISD (state prison school system), and she plans retirement in June 1999. We both eagerly look forward to traveling with our lizard business and plan to do it extensively, calling on pet stores and reptile expos all over the country. Yep! People really do like to keep pet lizards. We breed and ship babies all over the world, and we're both having a ball with our little business." You can contact Lynn at his e-mail address, [tlc@snydertex.com](mailto:tlc@snydertex.com), or at his website, [www.texaslizard.com](http://www.texaslizard.com).

**Bob Tollison** ('80 BGS), who was in the marching and symphonic band, writes "I am married with a total of five children (four girls and one boy) with ages that range from 23 to 13. My wife Dianne and I were married three years ago." Since 1989, he's been (continued on page 7)

It turned out that I have some "wasted space" available (since this is the back side of a solicitation form which you will be returning to us and I can't put anything on this page that you would want to save), so how would you like to see some old pictures? It's not going to cost you anything, and it might jog your memory enough to keep you from getting Alzheimer's. (If you don't recognize anyone, don't panic; try to remember something else instead as quick as you can.)



**Alumni** (continued from page 4) working for a computer company, CCI/Triad Systems Corporation, as a systems educator. He's still involved with music but as a vocalist in a church choir in Georgetown though he resides in Leander, Texas.

**Dr. Scott Herrington** ('76 BM, '83 MM, '83-'84 WT music faculty) is in his sixth year as director of choral studies at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview. He has four ensembles. His most recent conducting "gigs" have been the TMEA Region XVI All-Region High School Choir, a 350-voice Texas Baptist All-State Choir, and guest conductor with the Plainview Symphony on several occasions. He also hosted the Texas Baptist All-State this summer. His International Choir was one of two U.S. choirs invited to participate in a Czech/American Choral Festival in Prague, The Czech Republic, in 1996. In addition, the choir toured Austria, Hungary, and Slovakia. Last year while on tour the ensemble performed at a church pastored by WT music alum Kim Broadstreet ('76 BME). Scott would like to hear from WT alums and friends. His e-mail address is herrins@wbu1.wbu.edu or johnscott@texasonline.net.

**Tony Golmon** ('83 MM) stopped by this summer. He's been selling insurance in Waco for the last three years. He wants '83 grads to write 5718 Wilshire Dr., Waco, TX 76710.

**Gerry** ('84 BME) and **Eva Dee** ('81 twirler) **Lewis** were featured as keynote speakers at the Fall Festival of Marriage--Sponsored by Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention--at Hot Springs, Arkansas, in October 98. They still live in Azle where Gerry has been Senior Pastor of Eagle Mountain Baptist Church for almost 8 years. Eva Dee teaches 3rd grade in Azle. Tova (10) and Zeke (7) are the center of most of the family's activities.

**Mrs. Martha Morris** ('70 - '92 music librarian) sends news clippings from time to time. She broke her left wrist in August and has had to write with her other hand for a while but expects to be fully recovered by

Christmas. She and husband Mike are living in Amarillo.

**Li-qiang "Carmine" Duan** ('97 MA) was employed with the Asian American satellite TV Corporation in Chicago as a music director and producer through 1997. He now resides in Canada.

**Ian** ('97 BMMT) and **LeeAnn (Jones)** ('97 BMMT) **Meitzen** had a baby boy, Isaac, in September. The baby had to have some heart surgery, but he's fine now. Ian is teaching choir and chemistry in a private school in Cincinnati. LeeAnn is doing some teaching, some music therapy, and a whole lot of mommying. Their e-mail address is IAJM@aol.com.

**Yuko Williams** ('94 BMMT, '96 MA) and her husband spent the month of May in Japan visiting her family and travelling. She's still working in Perryton (and doing a wonderful job with her company's newsletter).

## In Memoriam

**Amogene DeVaney** died November 13, 1998. She earned a BS in music from WTAMU but spent most of her professional career as a math and engineering professor at Amarillo College until her retirement in 1980. Her doctorate was from New York University. She was also a certified financial planner and investment adviser.

**John Davis** ('83 MA) died in October from an accidental fall. He and wife Lisha were teaching in Idalou, Texas.

## Music Therapy

The music therapy program at West Texas A&M University has experienced some changes this fall. Mrs. Martha Estes, RMT, retired in the spring of 1998. Mrs. Estes will be missed for her long commitment to the program since its inception in the 1970s.

Edward P. Kahler, Ph.D., MT-BC, is the new director of music therapy at WTAMU. Dr. Kahler received his doctorate from the University of Kansas. Prior to coming to WTAMU, Dr. Kahler had clinical experience with the severe and profound mentally

retarded, psychiatric, and rehabilitation patients including stroke, head injury, chronic pain, spinal cord injury, and burn patients. He most recently served as director of music therapy at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma.

The music therapy club remains active locally and within the region. Under the direction of new local officers, the club has already participated in the health fair. Several members attended the national music therapy conference in Cleveland. They also participated in Christmas caroling and will participate in Career Day and present the annual sign song performance at Showcase. The music therapy club also remains active with community projects and arranging speakers for club meetings.

Edward Kahler



Dr. Kahler

## Faculty Footnotes

Bassoonist **Tina Carpenter**, Flautist **Sally Turk**, and Percussionist **Susan Martin Tariq** were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at the beginning of the fall semester.

Two of our voice faculty, **Joe Ella Cansler** and **Cloyce Beard Stradley**, finished doctorates this fall and, as a result, were reappointed at the rank of Assistant Professor. Joe Ella earned a Ph.D. in Fine Arts from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Cloyce completed a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree in Vocal Performance from the University of North Texas.

We have been notified that **Doug Storey**, clarinetist, and **Donald Lefevre**, saxophonist and marching band director, have been recommended to the board of regents for promotion to Associate Professor. If accepted, their promotions would become effective in August 1999.

**Dr. Tariq** received the 1997-98 Teaching Excellence Award which was announced at the WTAMU spring commencement ceremonies. Tariq also received a Faculty Development grant to attend the 1998 Berklee Keyboard Percussion Festival at the Berklee School of Music in Boston.

**Bill Evans**, pianist and composer, and **Laurel Vartabedian**, an Amarillo College professor, are into their third year of work on an opera/musical entitled *American Story*, based on the events surrounding the Ludlow Massacre. They are grateful for the help from staff members of both campuses. Because of this help and a grant from the Killgore Research Center, the work was performed in a shortened form eight times during the spring and summer of 1998: twice at WTAMU, twice in Trinidad, Colorado, and four times in Amarillo. It is scheduled to be the spring 2000 musical at WTAMU, and it is hoped that by then it will be seen in a more complete form.

**Spring 1999 Concert Dates**  
Career Day and Faculty Grand Recital,  
Jan. 29

Symphonic Band, Jan. 30 (Northen  
Recital Hall) and Feb. 1 (Amarillo  
Civic Center)  
Symphonic Band performance at  
TMEA (see article)  
Alumni Reception, Menger Hotel,  
Friday, Feb. 5  
Chorale, Feb. 13  
Denise Parr-Scanlin Faculty Piano  
Recital, Feb. 28  
Choir Concert, Feb. 28  
Musical, *Into the Woods*, March 3-7  
Orchestra Concerto Concert, March 7  
Joseph Cox Faculty Trombone  
Recital, March 25  
Mary Jane Johnson Faculty Voice  
Recital, March 30  
Showcase of Music, April 9  
Wind Ensemble Concert, April 14  
Day of Percussion, April 16-17  
Jazz Band, April 18  
Choir Concert, April 27  
Orchestra Concert, April 30  
Concert Band, May 2  
Symphonic Band, May 2  
Honors Recital, May 4

We welcome your attendance at any of our concerts. Since these dates are subject to change because of weather and so forth, please call the music office (806-651-2840) to find out about specific details before making a long journey. In addition to the concerts listed above, there are numerous student recitals during the spring semester to which the public is invited to attend.

## Mary Jane Johnson, Artist- In-Residence

With the generous support of the Harrington Foundation, internationally renowned opera singer Mary Jane Johnson will spend the 98-99 academic year as our Artist-in-Residence. Ms. Johnson is a graduate of WTAMU and has established a career performing in the leading opera houses of the world.

Ms. Johnson has been and will be on campus for a series of week-long sessions. During her days on campus she has been coaching singers in all the voice studios, giving master classes, and informances on aspects of the singing profession.

A typical day of the residency may find Mary Jane moving from studio to studio, coaching students on a wide array of repertoire, meeting informally with students, and conducting an afternoon master class.

In the spring semester, Johnson will present a seminar session on operatic acting. She will also present a series of demonstrations on campus and in the local high schools, sharing her experiences and showcasing the talents of WT vocal majors.

Johnson will perform a recital in Mary Moody Northen Hall in March, as a benefit for vocal/choral scholarships.

Visit her website at <http://maryjanejohnson.com/>

Robert Hansen

# RITORNELLO

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