

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Do you know what gripes me? Reading articles in the local newspapers about preppers signing with a juco basketball team or signing as a prospective starting linebacker for a Division I NCAA football power, because he's the best player on a high school team which has an enrollment of 800 students. Please! You and I know what the chances are of him starting the first game. Zero. So they'll red shirt him (whatever that means) and begin working on strengthening and conditioning. By his junior year (second year on the team) he might get lucky and see some action. Then there's the press conference to announce that he's going to leave school to enter the NFL draft. Following that there are endorsements, drug charges, and jail time.

The juco basketball player gets a second national-letter-of-intent-signing newspaper article when he/she transfers to the four-year school but the end result will be the same: either you hear about him/her (good or bad) or you don't. And what's worse is that there's always a picture and caption of the athlete signing a document—one wonders whether he's read it himself or had the lawyers interpret it for him—flanked by the high school coach who always knew that this kid had potential, a couple of proud parents who are biologically gifted, and the overly eager college coach who needs this last prospect to make a real difference in his bid for a national championship. A banner with the high school colors and the university's baseball cap add an air of normalcy to the scene.

Where's the same thing for the fine arts? Wouldn't you like to see a photo of a talented music student signing a scholarship offer surrounded by the music store salesman who sold him his first instrument and supplied reeds and other accessories on a regular basis for the last six years, the private lesson teacher who wouldn't settle for less than all-state status, the band or choir director who counted on this youngster's individual for leadership in his/her section, and the two biologically gifted parents. Oh, yeah, and the college bassoon cont'd on page 4



American Story at BIT: from left: Emily Starnes, Sherman Bass, Lori Gregory, and Jonna Heath.

AMERICAN STORY PREMIERS

The new musical, *American Story* written by Laurel Vartabedian and Bill Evans premiered to a full audience of WT Foundation members, February 28 in the BIT. It continued its run through March 5th. Since its experimental production at Amarillo College, the local authors and BIT staff have been rewriting and reshaping the show for a large cast, full-stage production. Workshops and master classes were included in the learning process with outside luminaries and professionals attending. We are very proud of the collaborative efforts and interdisciplinary education offered by our music and drama departments. The audiences seem to really enjoy this inspirational and dramatic story about the courageous and unique individuals who, with their hands and hearts, shaped early 20th-century America. The show is directed by Royal R. Brantley and Dr. Joe Ella Cansler

Our artist-in-residence program with Mary Jane Johnson is in full swing. She has been in and out of studios giving cont'd on page 4

ALUMNI NOTES

A. E. Scheihagen ('41 BA) reports that after serving as student director and president of the WT band from 1940 to 1941 and graduating in 1941 with a degree in education and music, he spent the next 40 years flying as an airline pilot. He was a pilot for Continental for 33 years before retiring in 1980. In that time he's remained active in music participating in seven Gilbert and Sullivan productions in Huntsville as well as other plays, and has sung in choirs and quartets for over 60 years! Keep up the good work, A. E.!

Linda Ridlehuber Boyle ('67 BME). Email: kinnl@lake.ollusa.edu

John Scott Herrington ('76-'83 BM-MM; choral faculty) reports from Wayland Baptist University: "I have had a busy year at Wayland. One of the highlights of the fall semester was the opportunity to guest conduct the Lubbock Chorale and Orchestra. (Dr. Ken Davis is on leave). The fall concert included great choral masterpieces from Bach, Handel, Haydn, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, and various others. We also performed Morten Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna." Other than that, it was a typically busy semester of performing and teaching."

Dr. Samuel Bomar Brown, ('78 MM), recently was awarded Professor of Music at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama where he teaches studio voice, class voice, English, Italian, German and French Diction, vocal pedagogy and the art song. He continues to be an active vocal performer including recent recitals at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, Louisiana State University, JSU's Kaleidoscope (a yearly event in celebration of the arts), and as a guest performer with the Birmingham, Alabama Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Sam continues to have a large number of winning vocalists each year in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) auditions, and his article, "La Danza and La Tarantella" was published in the Australian NATS journal, *Australian Voice*, in 1996.

He received the Bachelor of Music degree from Baylor University in 1964, the Master of Music degree from West

Texas State University in 1978, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance in 1982 from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was awarded the prestigious Berton Coffin Award and scholarship. Faculty positions include Wayland Baptist University, West Texas State University, the University of Colorado (both as a graduate assistant and as a faculty member in the university's continuing education department), the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and Jacksonville State University.

Richard Hall ('78 BME) writes: "I switched jobs after 17 years with Texas Instruments/Raytheon last summer. I did not decide to accept a transfer to Tucson, AZ, and decided to go from missile software to information technology software. I am now a consultant for Buchanan Associates in Las Colinas (Irving) doing Unix/C, 4GL, and Visual Basic/C++ programming work for the LaQuinta motel/inns & suites chain.

"Before I left Raytheon, I saw Dean Palmer out in Tucson a couple of years ago. I've seen another WT alumnus in the last year. Robert Weatherby now lives about a mile away from me in Highland Village, TX, and his son goes to the same elementary school as Stephen (the youngest of the 2 children you saw). I even played tennis with him late last fall.

"I'm still playing trumpet. In the Lewisville Lake Symphony - we are in our 16th season and the conductor and I are the only original ones left. Also, it seems like I also play almost every day between Thanksgiving and Christmas every year playing Nutcracker in either Dallas or Lewisville. I also play for my church and for some weddings. With the above and singing in church choir, music is still a big part of my life.

Richard Hall, rhall@unicomp.net, 422 Post Oak Dr., Highland Village, TX 75077, (972) 317-2864."

Bob Tollison ('80 BGS) is back in his hometown of Sherman working for a computer teaching company teaching customers how to use their machines. His son Austin is a drama major at Stephen F. Austin University

and daughter Molly is an all-state violinist for the past two years at MacArthur High School in San Antonio. She has one more year left till starting college. Email: btollisonj@aol.com

Tawnya Bryan ('82 BME) is pleased to announce that a recent graduate from WT, **Jennifer Smith** ('98 BME) is working with her in band and music K-8 in Bushland. According to Tawnya, "She is outstanding!"

Richard Paul Clem ('83 BME) is at richpclem@aol.com

Nadina Baird Oney ('85 BM) retired from piano teaching, husband Dick retired from W. W. Grainger in 1999, and they have relocated to Las Cruces, NM, to be closer to the kids and grandkids (**Steve Baird** ['82 BME] in Canyon; **Leslie Blanchard** ['78 BME, '80 MM] and **Janie Sanchez** ['87 BME] in El Paso). "We are loving the desert southwest!"

Sherilyn Walker Robinson ('85 BMTh) reports: "I'm teaching piano privately in my home and recently joined Amarillo Music Teachers Association for the first time. My husband Clay is still teaching soil science at WTAMU. My oldest son Jesse made Jr. High all-region choir; Josiah, age 8, takes violin lessons from Anne Chalex; Janae, age 6, plays piano and Joel, age 1, is pretty good on the recorder!"

Jim Summersgill ('79 BME, '86 MA) shares some news: "I can remember attending my first Suzuki performance at WT back in 1978 (?) and remember Dr. Haines passing out cowboy hats to the tiny children who wowed us with adult sounding performances. I am proud to report that **Judy (Bridwell) Summersgill** (BMT '82) and daughter Bethany traveled with twenty students from the Fort Worth area to Tokyo and Nagaoka, Japan, in March to participate in a Suzuki music exchange program. Bethany, who plays violin, was the only red-headed participant at the 46th Annual Suzuki Graduation Concert held in Tokyo, Japan where 3,000 musicians played Mozart ("Twinkle"), Bach, Vivaldi, and Mendelssohn.

In addition to being a world traveller, Judy is very involved with Bethany (12) and son Matthew (9) at school and is currently working on getting the middle school web site up. Jim is still working as a systems manager for GTE, assists with a Cub Scout den, and attends school board meetings as an advocate for the music program.

jsummersgill@home.com
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817-428-2415

Here are the links to some pics from the trip:

Bethany (circled in yellow at the concert): <http://members.home.com/jsummersgill/GrandConcert1.jpg>
Another view with some of the younger students: <http://members.home.com/jsummersgill/GrandConcert2.jpg>

Judy and Bethany at the entrance to the Imperial palace grounds:
<http://members.home.com/jsummersgill/bridge.jpg>

Ron Davis ('79 BM, '80 MA) wrote: "To all friends and former members of the Marble Falls Mustang Band: Yesterday the Marble Falls High School Symphony Band journeyed to Coleman, Texas, to participate in the Region VII UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. The band played a very ambitious program consisting of *El Abanico* by Javoleyas, "Gandalf" from the *Lord of the Rings Symphony* by de Meij and Peterloo Overture by Arnold. The band received straight 1's from all three concert judges and from all three sightreading judges, thus awarding the band the Grand Sweepstakes Trophy for the 3rd year in a row!

"Congratulations to all band members past and present for your hard work and dedication to excellence!"

Scott Hay ('87 BME) is currently in his 13th year of teaching in Wichita, KS. He sang with the Wichita Chamber Chorale and is a soloist with the First United Methodist Church. Services are televised so he is keeping up the technique. He also travels to Europe each summer with the Kansas Ambassadors of Music. He is also currently in his first year as KMEA State Choral Chair, a position that is both rewarding and challenging.

Rebecca Stewart ('88 BME) and husband Brett recently moved into a three bedroom house (twice the room

and walking). Brett graduated from Oklahoma State University and is now working for SMC Pneumatics in Tulsa. She is still teaching music 4-6 at Garfield Elementary School in Sands Spring, Oklahoma. She has also been the elementary chairperson in charge of all elementary music teachers for five years. Daughter Megan is five and son Brandon just turned two.

Sarah Preston ('97 BM) is in her third year of graduate work at Southern Methodist University in Dallas working on her second master's degree in music history. She is in the process of writing her thesis on style and genre in Georg Philipp Telemann's "Parisian" quartets for flute, violin, cello, and continuo. She hopes to begin work on a PhD in Musicology next fall.

Shelley St. Clair ('96 BMT) writes: "I'm currently working for the State Center, taking Music Therapy to group homes for primarily multiple handicapped adults. I also work at Gene Howe School, where I work with young children who are physically and mentally challenged. The paperwork is ungodly and I virtually live in my car, but hey, I'm employed. My daughter is at U.T. Arlington getting her MSW. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in Psych from A&M last May. She's also a member of MENSAs. Whenever she comes home I listen a lot!!! Volunteer work includes serving as Secretary on the Lone Star Ballet Board (our own Bob Hansen is president & doing a remarkable job.), and also serving as secretary on the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation Board. If you run into me, chances are my left hand will be in a permanent "crimped" position!! I'm also a sustaining member of the Amarillo Jr. League. Sustaining means after 40 and it's great. You get all the perks, parties, etc., that you can handle and you don't do any of the work!!! Being ancient does have a few things to offer that are actually good. I'm getting a new knee soon - I have no cartilage at all in the left knee & my kneecap is not attached to anything. There's a guy in Phoenix who's purported the best in the country. He's going to do it - many Amarillo folks have paid him a call in the past. Cross your fingers - hope all goes well!!"

Stacy (Kriz) Piyakhun ('99 BM) is currently an elementary general music teacher at Christie Elementary School in Frisco (north of Plano). She and husband Keith have been married just over a year and are enjoying their new home and new puppy.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Catherine Spinosa Brown ('79 BM), Sam Brown's wife of 34 years, died on May 27, 1999, at the University of Alabama Hospital, Birmingham, Alabama, from complications following a stroke of April 9, 1999. She was 55 years of age.

Mary Catherine attended Baylor University for two years but earned the Bachelor of Music degree from West Texas State University in 1979 and the Master of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 1986. An accomplished pianist and organist, she served churches in Mississippi, Texas (Tulsa, Texas for 15 years), Colorado, New Mexico and Alabama. For 12 years she was organist at the large, historic church, Parker Memorial Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama.

She accompanied Sam in master classes with such notable teachers as Vera Rosa, Eileen Farrell, Dalton Baldwin, Gerard Souzay, Martin Issep, Natalie Limonick, Ralph Herbert, Renato Capecchi and in lessons with Dr. Barbara Kinsey Sable, his voice professor at CU. Mary Catherine also accompanied for all of his recitals, programs, his student's recitals, NATS auditions, etc.

She maintained a private piano and organ studio for many years, producing among others, a Van Cliburn scholarship winner to Baylor University and an Eva Browning scholarship winner to Texas Tech University. Her former students now live in many states and include professional pianists, teachers, church organists, church pianists, etc. All those she taught remember a caring, devoted teacher who sought to help each one reach his or her highest musical potential. This legacy will continue to live in the lives of all who were enriched by her presence, for it is what we invest in others that is truly lasting.

BAND/ORCHESTRA

At the moment of this writing, the Symphonic Band is just about to leave for its annual tour. Stops will be in Clovis, Franklin and Coronado High Schools in El Paso, as well as a clinic with the Moorehead Middle School Band there, Mayfield HS in Las Cruces, Lee HS in Midland, Permian HS in Odessa, and Greenwood HS.

The orchestra is preparing for the annual Concerto Concert on March 5 at 8:00 p.m. Our soloists this year are: Amy Gould, clarinet; Eric Rath, vibraphone; Karl Veasey, oboe; Marisa Sorajja, violin; Casey Carter, baritone; and Daniel Loudenback, saxophone.



Artist in Residence, Mary Jane Johnson, coaching students Bryan Davis and Lori Gregory in master class

AMERICAN STORY, cont'd

hands on instruction to private students as well as helping with direction of opera workshop productions and conducting a master class for the musical workshop students. She helped the voice and choral faculty sponsor a high school choral directors luncheon during UIL solo and ensemble contest. She will be performing with the WT Chorale on their annual tour March 7-9, singing "Libiamo....." from *La Traviata* by Verdi with the choir. You will want to catch her at the Santa Fe Opera this summer singing *Elektra*. We are proud to have such a distinguished and versatile personality as a colleague and hope she will continue with us.

FACULTY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The newly-founded WT Faculty Chamber Orchestra performed at TMEA this year with great success. The full group performed two works by French composers — *The Creation of the World* by Milhaud and Ibert's *Divertissement* — and the Harrington Quartet played a movement of the Beethoven Quartet, Op. 59, no. 2. A large crowd at Beethoven Hall greeted the performance with an enthusiastic standing ovation.

CHORALE NEWS

Greetings from the choral music department.

The WT Chorale just finished a successful tour of the Texas Panhandle March 7-9. The chorale sang performances for Hereford, Plainview, Pampa, Perryton, and Dumas high schools, as well as performed in the Pampa civic auditorium and at Clarendon Community College for students and interested members of the Clarendon community. And all of this in fifty (50) hours. It was indeed challenging and grueling, but also fun. I think the singers enjoyed the tour as much as the faculty. Accompanying the Chorale on tour was voice faculty Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, Dr. Cloyce Beard-Stradley, and Artist-in-Residence Mary Jane Johnson, WTAMU's internationally-known and gifted soprano. Mrs. Johnson and the Chorale performed an aria for chorus and soprano from Verdi's *La Traviata* as part of the program, much to each audience's delight, as indicated by their enthusiastic applause.

DR. SANDERS HONORED

On May 6, Dr. Hugh Sanders, '67-84 WTAMU choir director and '78-84 dean of the college, was honored at a dinner in the atrium of Mary Moody Northen Hall, which was attended by more than 100 people. Dr. Sanders, his wife Rinky, daughter Stacie and son Stan were in attendance. There were several displays of choir programs and photographs. Following the dinner, we retired to the recital hall where

testimonials were borne, some humorous, some quite emotional. A 50-voice alumni choir performed works that were special remembrances of choral music performed in years past, for example, at the 1973 TMEA concert. At the end of the evening, a beautiful plaque was presented to Dr. Sanders. There was also an announcement that an endowed scholarship had been established that will continue to recognize Dr. Sanders and his contribution to choral music and music education for generations to come. A plaque will be on display in the choir room that will carry the names of each year's outstanding choral student. Mr. Barry Talley ('80 BM), Dr. Scott Harrington ('76 BM, '83 MM), and Dr. Cloyce Beard-Stradley ('84 BM, '86 MM, and '92-present voice faculty) collaborated in this event; Cloyce hosted the event for WTAMU. All in all, it was an entirely wonderful evening, and gave us a chance to visit with one another and honor a man who has had a huge impact on the lives of those who have come under his influence.

CHAIRMAN COLUMN, cont'd

instructor who had landed this prize catch. We've had instances where college instructor would have been out of the picture. For example, Mr. Doug Storey, our clarinet teacher, has been doing some cartwheels over the prospective students he has contacted and who have indicated that they want to study with

him next fall. It's an ugly sight, and it's nearly impossible to capture that special moment in a group photo as the action figure moves from left to right.

Sure we could stage some fake photo stunt, but let me tell you that we are signing some very talented students. And these students will be playing in our top ensembles as we prepare them for their chosen careers. At this writing, 32 prospectives have accepted our scholarship offer, another 31 have been given offers but we are awaiting a reply, and there's another 20 students that are on hold until they have completed all the requirements for admission to the university.

Thanks to everyone for your support of our annual fund-raiser associated with the Showcase of Music concert. It makes our non-publicized signings possible. As promised, everything raised will be used for scholarships. All costs (printing, posters, mail outs, civic center rental, etc.) were paid out of the band camp account, which is our auxiliary enterprise. It appears that \$39,000 was raised this year for scholarships. Money that was given for the dinner will be put into the dinner account and we will only use the interest generated. Over the long term, this amount will continue to grow and will provide us with new money every year. From the Sybil B. Harrington bequest this year, the department received \$23,000 based on enrollment within the college. Two thousand dollars was given to dance. We are using the money in the music department as a one-time supplement to our usual renewable scholarship as an incentive to students that we would really like to attract but who may receive much larger offers from other universities. There is no quota system; rather, the faculty who hear the auditions make the recommendation everyone is working together to make this the most effective. Financially, we can meet all our commitments.

In the fall issue of *Ritornello* we will run the list of Showcase contributors. I have always been concerned about the advertisers in the Showcase program and the fact that they weren't getting enough exposure. The same is true of the contributors; we need to sing your praises more. (Don't worry.

No one will let me sing. They've heard me!) What I intend to do this year is create a tasteful, poster-sized display that lists all the contributors for our annual scholarship drive, and leave it on exhibit in the foyer to the recital hall throughout the year. We have a lot of faithful supporters of this department who are willing to make monetary contributions to sustain our efforts at, I'm sure, no small sacrifice. People who come to our concerts need to know why our ensembles are top notch and why our students are so good. It's because people like you who have made that possible.

This has been a very good year, and we are equally excited at what next season's prospects bring in a bid to improve our already high national ranking. Thanks for your continued support.

P.S. By the way, we were reaccruited by NASM in January. We will make a follow-up report in October, but the visitation team was very complementary about music program, from academic preparation through the entire cycle to success stories from graduates. We continue to hold high standards and preserve our fine reputation.

HARRINGTON STRING QUARTET

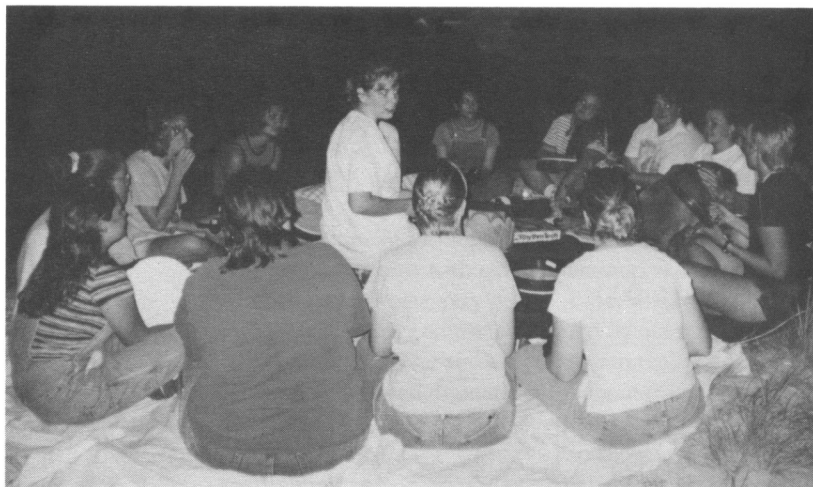
The quartet, violinists Corinne Stillwell and Anne Chalex, violist Joanna Mendoza, and cellist Emmanuel

Lopez, have kept up a busy performing schedule since returning from their summer excursion to France. They have performed recitals at Waxahatchie, TX, the TMEA convention in San Antonio with the faculty chamber orchestra, as presenters in a master class on quartet playing, and in a performance of Crumb's *Black Angels*. They have also performed at St. Paul United Methodist Church with guest artist Felicity Coltman, piano, and a special private performance with Amarillo Symphony Orchestra guest soloist David Shifrin. They will finish out their season with a concert April 29th in Northen Recital Hall on the WTAMU campus. During the summer, the quartet will be featured at the Round Top Festival in a world premiere performance of a quartet by Charles Fitts.

In addition to their quartet work, several have been featured in other venues as well. Joanna Mendoza was the guest soloist with the Randel Chamber Orchestra's February concert and performed in recital with Janet Chisholm, piano, at the University of Oklahoma. Emmanuel Lopez will be featured on an upcoming recording of Samuel Jones' *Cello Sonata* along with WTAMU piano faculty, Denise Parr-Scanlin.

MUSIC THERAPY

Well, the national conference, final exams and the holidays have passed.



Music Therapy students on retreat

Nine students made the trek to Washington, D.C., and all had an enjoyable and memorable time. We are now making plans for the Regional conference in Fort Worth. We have just sent off 15 student registration forms to the conference contact. Several of our students are serving as officers in the student organization and are learning a great deal from their experience. We are planning on taking two WTAMU vans to the big city. I hope they are ready for us!!

Here at WTAMU we are busy in the midst of the semester. As I write this, spring break is just a week away. Students are busy preparing for the Showcase performance on April 14th. We hope to see many of you there for our performance of *When You Believe* from "The Prince of Egypt." Sorry, no Mariah this year!

We have had a good year!! The Music Therapy Club has had great attendance and participation. The members had a retreat last fall and it was such a big success, they want to do

another. So, they are planning another evening retreat for members in March. It will be a time for fun and getting to know each other. Have a good summer, hope to see many of you in Fort Worth.

WTAMU BAND CAMP

July 9 - 21, 2000

For more information, contact
Sonja Love at 806/651-2828



FACULTY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: back row, from left standing: Amy Gould, Sally Turk, Kristen Zofutto, Anne Chalex, Joanna Mendoza, Denise Parr-Scanlin, Joe Cox, Susan Martin Tariq, Alan Miller, Russ Teweleit, Dave Ritter, Robert Zimmerman, Robert Krause. Front row: Ron Lemon, Doug Storey, Corinne Stillwell, Gary Garner, Emmanuel Lopez, Tina Carpenter, Don Lefevre.

RITORNELLO

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