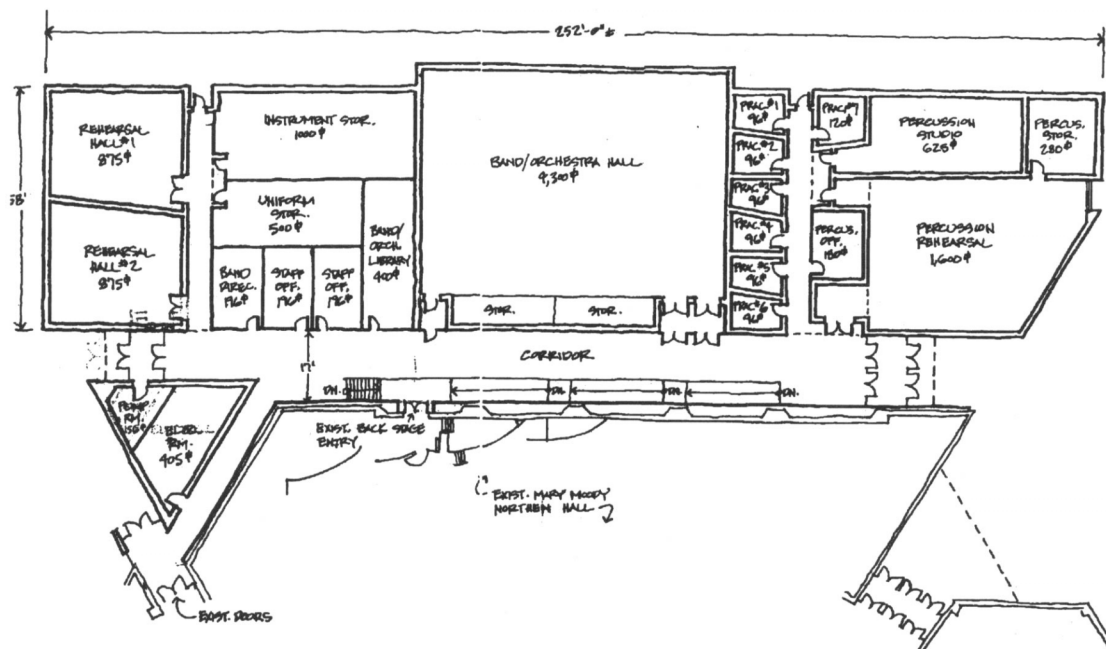


RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance West Texas A&M University

Volume 27, Number 2

Spring 2004



DEPARTMENT CHAIR'S COLUMN

We've received revised drawings of the new west wing addition. (Find Northen Recital Hall on the drawing to orient yourself.) Originally, it was a two-story structure to be built where the hardly-used Greek theatre is now located, but the latest plans call for a single story. On your left (to the south) will be two practice rooms large enough for small ensembles (up to 20 people) and we'll leave them unlocked for student use. In the center will be three offices, the music library for band and orchestra, band uniform storage, and school-owned instrument storage. The instrumental rehearsal area takes up most of the space and will be several feet wider and deeper than F-203 (that is, the band room or orchestral rehearsal hall or the place where jazz bands rehearsed or the percussion class, etc., depending on what your previous experiences were with that room). On the right (to the north) will be the percussion area

with a faculty office, percussion practice rooms that will be designated for marimba, or timpani, or trap set, etc., and a teaching studio and an ensemble room with storage.

Here are some random thoughts:

- The new building to the east of Northen continues. The last I heard was that they are ahead of schedule and are under budget, so that's good news. We don't expect that we will be in the building until the fall of 2005, but things seem to be moving along.
- The symphonic band was superb at TMEA if you weren't able to hear it in person.
- The Showcase of Music was a huge success. We think that we made just over \$21,000. Thank you for your support.
- The Harrington String Quartet had a campaign this year to start an undergraduate string quartet

Con't page 2

ALUMNI NOTES

Dr. MARY ANN REYNOLDS ('68 BME) is vice president for Commercial Business Development at Stewart Title of Houston. She also recorded her third CD of piano music and serves on the boards of the Houston Ballet and Moores School of Music at the University of Houston.

DONNA O'BRYANT

MCCULLOUGH ('91 MA) writes: "I taught band for 12 years. I now live in Houston. I have two sons age 9 and 7. I have been home with them since they were born. I still play a lot in local orchestral things and at church. I have been married for 10 years and am enjoying being a wife and mother.

"I don't know if you ever get time to watch late night television...I don't usually but my oldest son Noah has been a guest on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno three times this year. We have been back and forth to Los Angeles about 8 times dealing with all his press. He is a political/presidential/U.S. history expert and has appeared with several past presidents this year. He will most likely cover the conventions (democrat and republican) for the Tonight Show this summer and is thrilled. We will be in Washington, D.C., when school lets out so that he can do a special intern job with Tom DeLay. It is wild...I will have to elaborate more when I have time. Just thought you would get a kick out of that."

JENNIFER E. SMITH ('98 BME) is a band director at Bushland Middle School working with **Tawnya Bryant ('82 BME, '99 MM)**. She notes "I couldn't ask for a better place to work or a better person to work with."

IN MEMORIAM

TUBAL CAIN (BS '57, MS '60) died February 21, 2004, after a long illness. He was a member of the Buffalo Band, college orchestra, the Amarillo Symphony, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Collegians. His wife writes "Tubal and I met in the band room

when we both were in the band. I was a band member, member of Tau Beta Sigma, and Musical Comedy workshop. I received my BA in '63 and MA in '71 from the Drama Department. We were married for 51 years, 6 months. A long time, huh? WT music and theatre departments were very special to us."

DEPT. CHAIR'S COLUMN, con't

in the fall. Through the generosity of many donors, that dream will become a reality in the fall. The students selected to be in the quartet will receive about \$4,000 per year for four years (assuming that each will be recommended for continuance at their annual evaluation in May) to rehearse and perform as a quartet.

- We had a scare when TEA announced that anyone with a bachelor's degree could become certified to teach (or that was how it was presented in our local media). It turns out that that is only for 8-12 certification. Music is all-level, so it doesn't affect us (at least not now).
- We've received information that the TExES, the new certification test that replaces ExCET, will go into effect in September for music. Originally it was delayed until 2005, but that was changed last fall. The domains are similar, but we don't know how it

compares to the ExCET yet.

- We would really like to hear from you (as would our readers). Our alumni section is dwindling to nothing, so we need all you lurkers out there to send us something about what you're doing. I would think that you would like to hear what your classmates are doing now, so why don't you start it off, and when they see that you're doing your part, they'll do theirs. For example, James Metcalf, was the clinician last weekend for Dr. Tariq's Day of Percussion. Here's a sample of a good alumni note (which I freely stole from the program): "James Metcalf received his bachelor's of music education from West Texas State University and attended the University of Iowa for postgraduate studies. He attended Musicians Institute in Hollywood and studied world percussion with Abraham Adzenyah, Pandit Sharda Sahai and Michael Spiro. He has written and performed for dance ensembles and written two books on Afro-Cuban drumming. James has performed as a section percussionist for the El Paso Symphony and the Amarillo Symphony Orchestras. He worked as a high school band director for three years before relocating to Houston in 1987, where he was drumline instructor at Rice University for five years. Performing credits include premieres of several new works



HSQ IN NYC: from left rear, William Preucil, Keith Redpath, Emmanuel Lopez, Arthur Rowe. Left front, Annie Chalex and Joanna Mendoza

both at the Alley Theatre and Lone Star Theater including *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Svengali* and *American Vaudeville*. Recording credits include commercials for GTE, Casa Ole, Shell and numerous local demos and a variety of album projects including CD's featuring Ed Callé and David Liebman. He currently works at San Jacinto College teaching percussion, MIDI and recording technology." See how easy that was? Please help us.

And if there's ever anything we can do to help you or if you have a suggestion for us, please let us know. We're here to serve.

HSQ NEWS

The Harrington String Quartet performed its debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall in New York City on February 14, 2004. Weill Hall, Carnegie's chamber music stage, was sold out for the performance, which was a great success. David Katz of the *New York Stringer* wrote, "The Harrington String Quartet gave us an adventurous program and real musicianship." The program included Anton Werbern's *Langsamer Satz* for String Quartet, Beethoven's String Quartet in E-flat, op. 74 (*Harp*), the New York premiere of Daniel McCarthy's *Visions in Funk*, and Ernest Chausson's *Concert for Violin, Piano, and String Quartet*. Joining the quartet for the Chausson work were violinist William Preucil, concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra, and Canadian pianist Arthur Rowe.

Upon returning to Amarillo, the quartet performed on their subscription concert series with former violist of the Cleveland Quartet, James Dunham. This spring, the quartet also had concerts at Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX, Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM, and on the Newberry Opera House classical chamber music series in Newberry, South Carolina.

The Quartet is also excited to announce the success of their string quartet scholarship fund-raising effort. Starting in the fall of 2004, four students will receive a string quartet scholarship award. This student quartet will work closely with the

Harrington String Quartet and be performing in the community.

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Denise Parr-Scanlin, instructor of piano, presented recitals at North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega, Georgia, and Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina in October. At North Georgia College she performed a noon Campus and Community recital and an evening program as part of the J. L. Nix Fine Arts series. Her presentation at Southern Wesleyan University included a master class for piano majors. The all-French recitals included works by Messiaen, Debussy, Chabrier, and Poulenc. In June Ms. Parr-Scanlin will be a presenter at the state convention of the Texas Music Teachers Association in San Antonio. She will present a lecture recital on *Les Soirées de Nazelles* by Francis Poulenc.

SHOWCASE "25 for 25"

The SHOWCASE committee is starting a "25 for 25" campaign. The idea is to distribute coin banks that people can save their quarters in during the next year and return them at the 25th anniversary SHOWCASE, April 1 2005. Coin banks were distributed at this year's concert, but we still have plenty left. If you live in the area and would like to receive a bank, please stop by the music department office and request your official "25 for 25" coin bank. Let's all save our quarters (or any spare change) and see how much additional scholarship money we can raise. Thank you for your consideration.

BRASS NEWS

The brass area hosted two distinguished clinicians this year. French horn teacher and performer Thomas Bacon gave a master class and also performed with the horn choir. Adam Frey, euphonium, gave a master class and a recital. Both gave individual lessons and also critiqued students who played for them in master class. The experience was great and the opportunity to hear world-class

performances was priceless. The clinics were underwritten by the Yamaha Corporation and the WTAMU College of Fine Arts and Humanities.

ORCHESTRA NEWS

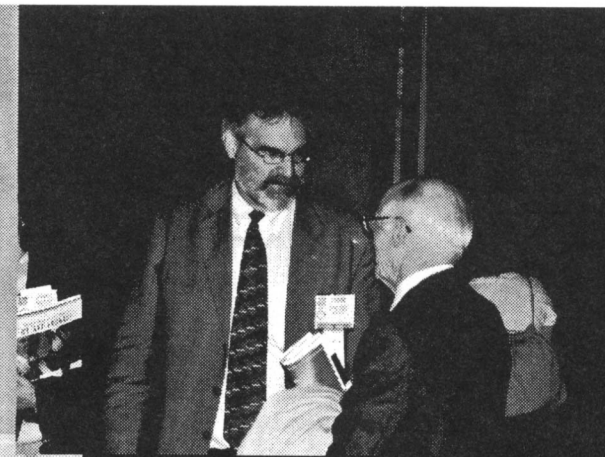
The West Texas A&M Symphony Orchestra has had a busy season. During fall semester, the orchestra performed in the annual Holiday Kick-Off Concert, in addition to its two regular semester concerts. Spring semester has seen a regular season performance (The Student Soloists Concert), and a collaboration with Dr. Cloyce Beard-Stradley and the WT Opera Workshop for three performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* in the Branding Iron Theatre. Dr. Douglas Morrison, Director of Orchestral Activities, was also on the road in March as he traveled to Midland High School at the invitation of its orchestra conductor, Therese Simmons, to work with her fine orchestra to help prepare them for UIL contest. The WTAMU Symphony Orchestra concluded its season on April 18, with a program featuring works of Donizetti, Wagner, and Smetana.

MUSICAL THEATRE

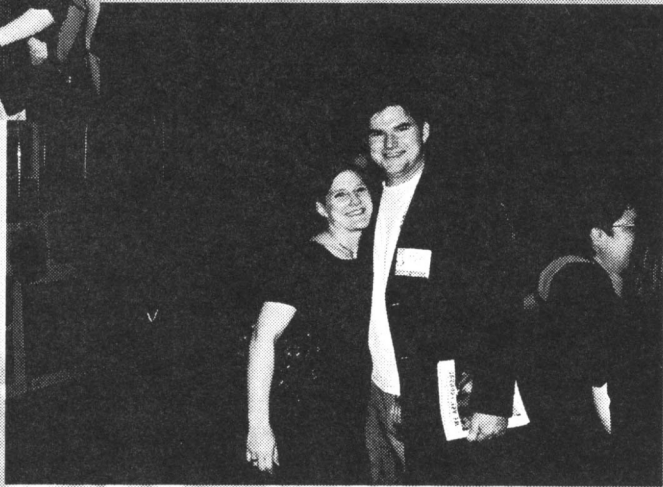
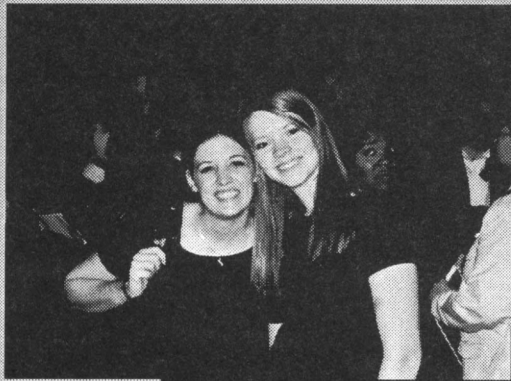
The Branding Iron Theatre rocked at the end of February with the sounds of *School House Rock*. Those adorable little cartoon characters that taught you your multiplication tables, social studies lessons, science, and grammar all came to life in the spring musical production of *School House Rock, Live!* The annual collaboration of the theatre and music departments featured seven on-stage performers and a pit combo of four, under the direction of director of theatre Wm. Perry Crafton and musical director Dr. Robert Hansen. The production was the best-attended musical in several years, proving that nostalgia can be a big market motivator! The show had a total of nine performances, including four daytime school performances that played to capacity audiences of screaming Kindergarten through 4th graders.

One unexpected bonus to the performers (veterans of the BIT will

TMEA 2004 – SYMPH



SONIC BAND SUCCESS!!!!



appreciate this) was NO STRIKE! The opera workshop's production of *The Mikado* two weeks later used the same basic set. There's an example of the wonderful cooperation we enjoy with the theater department.

CHORAL ACTIVITIES

The WT Choirs have had a productive spring. On April 24th, they combined with the Amarillo Civic Chorus and The Amarillo Symphony to perform Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* with maestro James Setapen and boy soprano Nicholas Levy. The performance received a rare mid-concert standing ovation and excellent reviews. Just four days later, the WT choirs presented the work again as part of their spring concert in Northern Recital Hall. WT student soloists for this performance were Kristen Cantrell, soprano; Meredith Kemp, mezzo-soprano; Matt Oglesby, tenor; and Armando Pinales, bass. The remainder of the concert featured "lighter-fare" such as various spirituals and madrigals. Dr. Robert Krause (and his oboe) joined the Collegiate Choir on James Mulholland's beautiful setting of "The Banks O' Doon." Another one of the evening's highlights was the premiere of Dr. Daniel J. Hall's arrangement of "Over the Sea to Skye" with Noel-Paul Laur at the piano, and WT senior, John Tegmeyer on clarinet. The arrangement will be published by Walton Music.

In March, the Chorale toured Dallas, Fort Worth, and Wichita Falls, with performances at Waxahachie First Baptist Church, North Crowley High School, Birdville High School, and Wichita Falls High School. The concerts went well, and the voice department is already seeing some positive results from the tour in this year's recruiting class.

In February, the WT choirs presented their annual winter concert in Northern Recital Hall. The evening included works by Brahms, Handel, René Clausen, Gwynneth Walker, and Mack Wilberg. This performance also marked the beginning of a new Winter Concert tradition by incorporating student vocal and instrumental solos from the various choral ensembles.



THE MIKADO: from left, Armando Pinales, Maurice Hayward, Robert Cardwell, Justin Loe, and Benjamin Grabber.

Students at WT have the opportunity to perform in a wide variety of ensembles, and Dr. Hall felt it would be a positive recruiting tool to highlight some of these individuals. Soloists were: Jake Feigum, piano; Guglielmo Manfredi, French horn; Meredith Kemp, Kristen Cantrell, Jessica Swenn, Matt Oglesby, and Amber Oglesby, voice.

This coming fall, as part of their opening concert, the WT choirs will present the Texas premiere of Eric Whitacre's *Five Hebrew Love Songs*. This is a wonderfully lyrical work for mixed choir and string quartet. Dr. Hall is thrilled to announce that the choirs will be collaborating with the Harrington String Quartet for this performance. The concert is on Tuesday, October 12, at 8:00 pm in Northern Recital Hall.

OPERA WORKSHOP

Opera workshop, directed by Dr. Cloyce Beard-Stradley, had a successful run of three performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* in the Branding Iron Theatre. The costumes and scenery were beautiful as well as the lovely lighting design. The on-stage performers did an outstanding job. The orchestra and our resident Maestro, Douglas Morrison, were superb. It was a wonderfully entertaining show and our performers are eager for what awaits next spring!

We will keep you posted and hope to see you there.

LONE STAR BALLETPARTNERS WITH RUSSIA!

The spring performance kicked off a three-part international collaboration with Kannon Dance from St. Petersburg Russia. Lone Star Ballet Company, made up mostly of WTAMU dancers, performed at the Amarillo Civic Center Saturday, April 17th at 8 pm. Nataly Kasparova, from St. Petersburg Russia, staged two of her dances with members of the Lone Star Ballet. The dancers, sponsored in part by WTAMU and by LSB, will be traveling in July to St. Petersburg with artistic director Mr. Edward Truitt to set choreography that will be performed with the Kannon Dance Company in St. Petersburg at the International Festival of Contemporary Dance.

PIANO SCHOLARSHIP AND PRIZE

Jake Feigum, freshman piano major from Burleson, Texas, is the first recipient of the Dorothy Franks Thurner Piano Scholarship. This generous scholarship was established in memory of Mrs. Thurner by her children: Noel Thurner of Sapphire, North Carolina, and Chris and Jeanne Thurner of Niceville, Florida. Dorothy

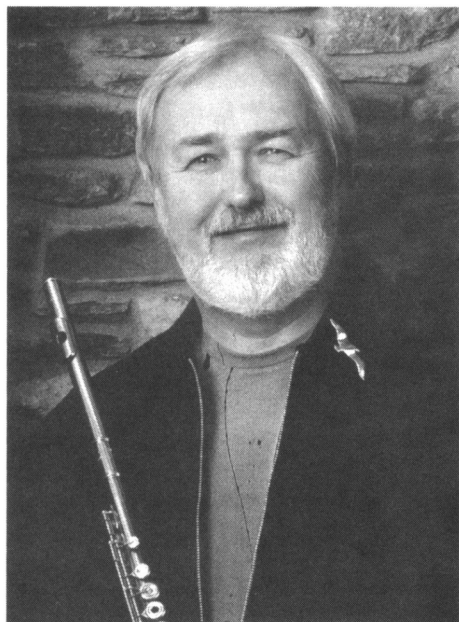
Franks Thurner was an avid lover and supporter of the arts, especially music. The words of her daughter Noel sum up the purpose of the scholarship best: "Mother loved to assist young people develop and grow as artists."

Jake is in the Honors Program at WT and was recently awarded fourth place at the Texas Music Teachers Association Student Affiliate Young Artist Competition held at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He presented a 25-minute recital of works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Rachmaninoff.

Jake is a student of WT instructor Denise Parr-Scanlin who had this to say about his latest achievement: "For a freshman to perform a program this magnitude at such a high level is very gratifying. I think Mrs. Thurner must be very pleased!"

BAND ACTIVITIES

The West Texas A&M University Symphonic Band completed an outstanding season of performances this spring. The highlight of our year was performing at the Texas Music Educators Association in San Antonio on February 12th. It is always exciting to have an opportunity to perform before such a large and educated audience. We were



**BAND CAMP GUEST ARTIST:
JIMMY WALKER, flute**

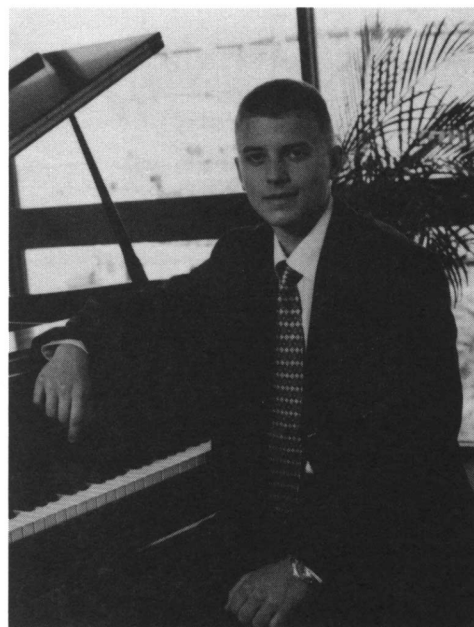
overwhelmed by the unyielding support from our alumni and friends. In addition to our TMEA performance, the band played concerts at Robert E. Lee High School, Midland High School, Brady High School and Warren High School while on tour.

Additionally, our Instrumental Band Clinics were very successful again this year. Cody Myers, Program Director of Fine Arts for the Amarillo Independent School District, and Russ Teweleit, Concert Band Director, presented clinics for two high school bands on March 6th, and were assisted by members of the Symphonic Band. Mr. Teweleit invited concert bands from Pampa High School, directed by Jason Jones, and Randall High School, directed by Chris Pirtle. In a second clinic, Dr. Gary Garner and I, in collaboration with the WTAMU instrumental faculty, presented clinics for four impressive high school bands on our campus. We invited Palo Duro High School directed by Jeff Doughten, Tascosa High School directed by Mike Ellis, Midland High School directed by Gary Doherty and Robert E. Lee High School directed by Randy Storie to participate in the clinics and concerts that were scheduled on March 27th. All bands worked very hard and should be proud of their accomplishments!

Another highlight for the bands at WTAMU this spring was performing at the 24th Annual Showcase of Music Concert at the Amarillo Civic Center. This year, the program was dedicated to our friend and mentor, Dr. Dudley Moore. Saul Caballero, a junior from Laredo, and Edmundo Montoya, a junior from Midland, received scholarships from the Moore Scholarship Fund.

We closed our concert season this spring with a program on April 27th. Roger Edwards, Director of Bands at Amarillo High School, guest conducted a selection with the Symphonic Band, and we were thrilled to work with him.

Please mark your calendar for this summer's WTAMU Band Camp, July 11-23, as we are continuing our guest artist series and have invited Jimmy Walker to join us as our Artist-In-Residence during the second week of our camp. Mr. Walker is an



JAKE FEIGUM, piano

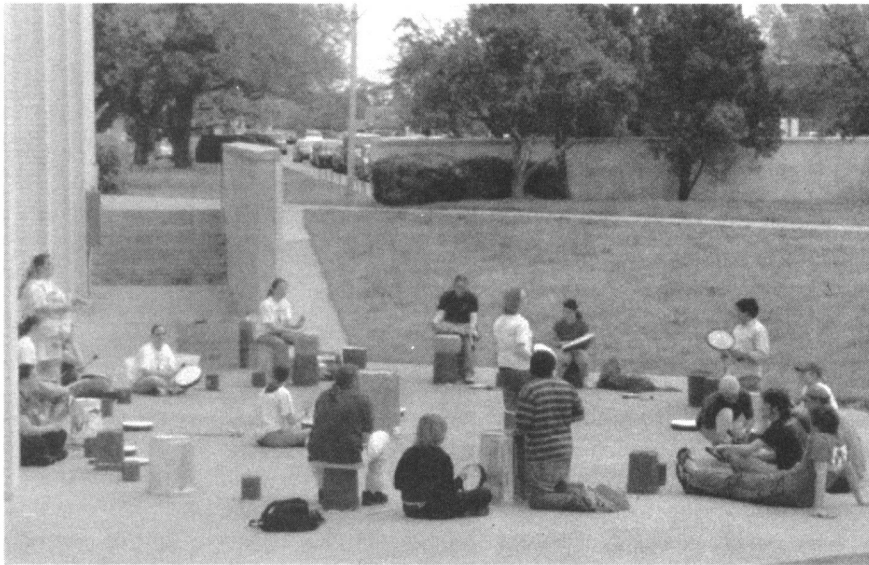
internationally renowned classical and jazz flute virtuoso. He has performed on hundreds of sound tracks for motion pictures and has had extensive training as an orchestral flutist. Additionally, Mr. Walker has garnered an equally impressive reputation as a jazz artist with his performances with *Free Flight*.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the WTAMU Band Camp and the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention. Have a safe and fun summer!

Don Lefevre

MUSIC THERAPY NEWS

Spring is in the air (or is that more snow?) and the semester is coming to a rapid end. This spring has been busy with Showcase, recitals, practicum, and or course tests (Remember?). Showcase went great. We really appreciate all the help many of you provide to our program. We know it ranges from monetary, to helping with practica, recruiting, and supporting in many other ways. Again, Thanks. I understand the regional conference went well. Hope to make it next year. We also have the nationals in Austin next year. It should be exciting. This April the Music Therapy Club hosted the second annual "Drum Circle" on campus. It was well received and all



MUSIC THERAPY DRUM CIRCLE

had fun. Well until next fall, have a great summer and keep in touch.

PIANO FESTIVAL

The WTAMU Piano Festival was held on Saturday, February 21, in Northern Recital Hall. Eighty students from the region, including New Mexico, participated. This year's judge was Dr. Jason Sifford, assistant professor of piano pedagogy at Texas Tech University.

Once again, WT students were indispensable in keeping things running smoothly. They took care of an array of details from registration to

getting performers on stage to getting ratings posted.

The festival is directed by Bill Evans. He invites all WT alums who teach piano to attend next year's festival. Please call the music office, 806-651-2840, if you would like to be placed on the festival's mailing list.

NEW MTNA COLLEGIATE CHAPTER

On November 20, 2003, WT's first collegiate chapter of Music Teachers National Association was established. Members of the Amarillo Music Teachers Association assisted in

setting up the chapter by presenting a program introducing students to this highly respected national organization and discussing the benefits of membership. WT music therapy graduate and AMTA member Nicole Koetting has remained in close touch with the chapter assisting with their activities this year. The organization represents a joint effort between WTAMU and Amarillo College and it is hoped that the two schools will enjoy a long and fruitful association in this venture. MTNA collegiate chapters provide educational, musical, social and professional experiences that augment the student's formal course of study, acquaint students with professional opportunities and career options in the field of music, and develop professional leadership skills.

Students who will go down in history as the chapter's first officers are: From WTAMU, President, Meredith Kemp; Secretary, Shandy Schumaker; Treasurer, Alta Striggles; From AC, Danna Corder, Vice-President. Chapter advisor is Denise Parr-Scanlin, instructor of piano at WT.

Send Alumni Notes Info to:
tcarpenter@mail.wtamu.edu or
tdubois@mail.wtamu.edu

RITORNELLO

Department of Music and Dance
West Texas A&M University
2501 4th Ave
Canyon, TX 79015

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