

# RITORNELLO



West Texas A&M University.  
SCHOOL of MUSIC

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## Greetings From the Desk of the Director of the School of Music

Greetings to our alumni and friends from the SCHOOL of Music at WTAMU! When I learned of the imminent plans to request School status for the music program, I shared the excitement of my colleagues at the recognition of years of outstanding accomplishment and the prospect of a bigger and better future. It is a goal that many of us have shared for years.

When Dr. O'Brien asked me to serve as the director of the School of Music, I felt humbled and honored, privileged and challenged, and mindful of a great responsibility to honor our illustrious past and use that to build a greater future. We have an opportunity that is inherent in the prestige of the designation to advance the School of Music and make it one of the premier programs in the state and in the region.

As we complete our first academic year as a school, I have had the opportunity to learn many things that were off my radar about our large and diverse enterprise. We have great opportunities ahead to continue the excellent work we do and to improve and expand in areas that present us with opportunities for growth. I'd like to highlight some changes, accomplishments, and goals. Above all, I welcome the feedback and suggestions of our graduates and former students. No one has a better or more valuable perspective to guide our way forward!

With our school designation came the recognition that we needed a bigger support staff. I am grateful to have the advantage and benefit of a fantastic Associate Director in Mark Bartley. He has a keen eye for strategic planning and serves as a great sounding board for ideas. A new full time position in student services will greatly improve our recruiting outreach as well as serving current students with scholarship assistance, degree requirement audits, and other needs.

Two amazing colleagues joined our faculty this year and have hit the proverbial ground running. I don't think I've ever met anyone with more enthusiasm and greater energy than Helen Blackburn, our first holder of the *Yvonne Franklin Endowed Chair*, Artist Teacher of Flute. Helen plays the flute like no other and students are beating down the doors to join the flute studio. Dr. Sean Pullen joined us late in the summer as our new Director of Choral Activities, and has wasted no time in growing the choirs and attracting singers to the school.

We have been blessed with two incredible gifts in the past year. Lily Jack Mercer bequeathed her estate to the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities, and half of that belongs to the School of Music. Our share is about half a million dollars, which has endowed four substantial scholarships for outstanding incoming students. Our beloved George Eason also provided for WT in his will. The current George and Ruth Eason Presidential Honor Scholarship will be expanded to four awards, meaning that we will be able award the scholarship to a new student every year, rather than once every four years. The bequest is a gift that keeps on giving, because it includes royalty payments that will continue to grow the endowment.

Prior to our fall faculty meeting, I asked the faculty to articulate their goals and aspirations for the School of Music. Seven identifiable goals emerged, with this progress toward achieving them:

1. Greater regional and national attention
  - We have developed a distinctive logo for the School of Music to brand our identity
  - We have significantly increased our advertising in Southwestern Musician
  - We are making revision and upgrades to the School of Music website
2. High educational standards
  - We have reaffirmed our already strong commitment to excellence in the classroom.
3. Highest standards for performances
  - It has been, and always will be, a top priority to

maintain excellence in our strongest areas and raise the standards where and when needed.

- Examples of excellence this year, among many, include the Christmas concert, Showcase of Music, the Live Cinema concert, the marching band performance at Cowboy Stadium, the spring band concert with THREE bands, the joint performance of the Mozart *Requiem* with the Eastern New Mexico University choirs, and the Trombone Choir performance at TMEA.
4. Having sufficient, quality instruments
    - We acquired \$135,000 in new Yamaha instruments, including a celeste.
    - We have acquired a new Steinway B grand piano, received the gift of another Steinway grand, and are currently restoring another Steinway grand.
  5. Raise more scholarship funds
    - Our scholarship endowment has increased by more the \$1,000,000 this year through the gifts from the Mercer and Eason estates and the Showcase of Music concert.
  6. Increase enrollment, especially graduate enrollment
    - We forecast one of the largest freshman classes in several years for the fall 2013.
    - The number of active graduate students will exceed 30 in the fall of 2013.

We also have adopted some ambitious fundraising goals to advance the visibility and prestige of the School of Music.

- We are on our way to earning the designation of an all-Steinway school. We are engaged in a multi-phased plan to replace and upgrade our inventory of pianos, 85 in all. Many of our pianos are 60 or more years old. The practice room pianos in Northern Hall are the same ones that were bought when the building opened. We have completed 3 of 7 phases that will provide us with 75 new pianos.
- We plan to begin a campaign to create endowed professorships in winds, strings, brass, keyboard and voice.

#### **Most of all, we want to put a name on the School of Music!**

The opportunity in front of us to achieve new levels of excellence is more than golden. It is a chance for us to hold up the School of Music at WTAMU with pride. We want to make our alumni PROUD to have gone to WT. We want to provide an educational experience that DESERVES the loyalty and respect of our students now and in the future. We want to SUPPORT a richly talented and devoted faculty whose overarching commitment is to excellence in teaching and in artistry.

And we want to keep in contact with our former students! Please let us know where you are and what you are doing. Join the School of Music page on Facebook. The WT Capital Campaign currently underway is called "Share the Pride." I am proud beyond words of the School of Music at WT, and I Share the Pride with you. I want you to feel the same and **SHARE YOUR PRIDE!**



**Robert Hansen, Director of the School of Music**

## **Music Therapy at WTAMU**

The Music Therapy program has grown over the past several years. We have had large freshmen classes the past three years. The club has been very active. Even though the format of Showcase has changed, the students have not given up Sign-Song. Some still miss it, but many have no knowledge of the old format. They continue to work on sign-song and have taken it to several local schools. Last year they tied it into the first Music Therapy Awareness Week. They also conducted several Drum Circles on campus and had an open mic night at a local coffee shop. I think all had fun. Speaking of the Awareness Week. They are planning this year's activities for the week of March 18. They are planning the open mic night again and a Music Therapy Recital on March 24. We would love for you all to participate in any or all events.

We continue to attend both national and regional conferences. We are looking forward to San Antonio. We have 18 signed up to go. You also may be happy to know that we now have 6 male students. I also want to let you know about a fundraiser the kids did last year. They asked faculty and club members to submit recipes. They compiled them and created a Recipe Cook Book. We have several left, so if you would like one, let us know.

Let us know what you are up to these days. Come visit. I'd love for you to talk to a class or two. Join us on Facebook – WTAMU Music Therapy Club.

**Dr. Edward Kahler**



Music Therapy students at "Open Mic Night"



**Mozart's Requiem:** Mark Bartley conducting the WTAMU Symphony, WTAMU Choirs, ENMU Choirs with soloists Lyndi Williams, Cynthia Hill, Matt Oglesby and Sean Pullen

## Symphony Orchestra at WTAMU

The WTAMU Symphony Orchestra had a busy and very successful 2012-2013 season. The *fall semester* began with the **Society of Composers, Inc. Region VI Conference** which was held on the WT campus. The orchestra performed a concert (October 5) of recently composed works by Carolyn Bremer, Luke Flynn, Warren Gooch, and BJ Brooks. The **Live Cinema Tour** (October 28-31) featured Douglas Fairbanks' 1920 film, *The Mark of Zorro*, with the premiere of a soundtrack composed by Dr. BJ Brooks. Performances were in Northern Recital Hall, WTAMU; La Rita Theatre, Dalhart; and Yucca Theatre, Midland. Clinics were also presented at Dalhart HS/MS and Midland High School. **Silent Night, Holy Night** (December 2) was our Christmas Concert with WTAMU Choirs and Tascosa High School's *Les Chanteurs* featuring student and faculty soloists.

The *spring semester* included performances of Mozart's *The Impresario* (February 1 & 3) with WTAMU Opera Workshop. On February 26 the orchestra performed Amundson's *Three's Company* featuring WT bassoonists, Chris Garcia, Conor Bell, and Ben Smith on the **Chamber Music Recital Showcase of Music** (March 1) featured the orchestra performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* featuring pianist, Lynsi Porterfield. Our season finished with **Mozart's Requiem** partnering with the choirs of WTAMU and Eastern New Mexico University featuring student and faculty soloists. The concerts included additional works including Copland's *The Promise of Living*. Performances took place on April 19 (WTAMU) and April 20 (ENMU).

See our repertoire list, watch and listen to video and sound clips:

<http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/school-of-music-orchestra.aspx>

**Mark Bartley**

## Bands at WTAMU

This spring has been a very exciting time for the WTAMU band program. We have three wonderful bands again this year, and **Dr. Gary Garner** has returned to conduct the University Band.

On March 1, the Symphonic Band performed on the Showcase of Music Concert. Our yearly tour took us to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area performing concerts at Lewisville, Wylie, Hebron, J. J. Pearce, Ferris, and Plano East High Schools. In addition, we were invited to be the first university band to perform in the Mansfield Performing Arts Center. During the tour our new flute teacher, Helen Blackburn, was featured as soloist in a new work for flute and band by Dr. BJ Brooks. It is with great joy that we welcome Helen Blackburn to the WTAMU School of Music faculty. Dr. Teweleit and Dr. Garner recently conducted wonderful concerts with the Concert and University Bands.

Randy Storie invited Dr. Garner and myself to conduct and perform with the Robert E. Lee High School Honor Band on concerts in Midland (March 10<sup>th</sup>) and Indianapolis (March 14<sup>th</sup>). In addition, Estephan Quintella, Robert Simmons, Charles Nail, Dan Gibbs, J.R. McEntyre and Bill Dean also conducted selections on the concerts. It was an honor to share the stage with these legends of Texas. A highlight for me personally, was conducting *Bugler's Holiday* with Mallarie Munoz, Jovan Munoz and Breanna Munoz. After graduating from Lee High School, all three sisters came to WTAMU to major in music, and were a wonderful part of the trumpet sections our ensembles.

The annual Instrumental Band Clinic and Concert took place on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Canyon, Floresville, Frenship and Lubbock High Schools participated and had the opportunity to work with our wonderful applied music faculty.

The **WTAMU Band Camp** is scheduled for July 7-19. During the second week of the camp we will be featuring Yamaha Performing Artist, euphonium soloist, Adam Frey. Frey has established himself as one of the leading euphonium



performers and pedagogues in the world today. His first solo recording entitled *Listen to THIS!!* received worldwide acclaim for its numerous world premieres as well as for its impressive performances. Dr. Gary Garner will be conducting the *Director's Band* and Dr. Russ Teweleit will direct the *Faculty Jazz Band* again this summer. We hope to see you and your students at the camp! For more information concerning the WTAMU Band camp, please call 806-651-2828.

**Don Lefevre**



**Adam Frey**

## Jazz at WTAMU

The WTAMU Jazz program began the 2013 spring semester with a HUGE event. During the first week of classes, we were host to international jazz artist and Dave Matthews Band member, Jeff Coffin, with his all-star group, "The Mu'tet" (Roy "Futureman" Wooten, drums; Felix Pastorius, bass; Chris Walters, keyboards; and Bill Fanning, trumpet). The group was in residence for three days presenting wonderful clinics and performances that culminated with an incredible performance at the Globe News Center for the Performing Arts. The January 17th program showcased all of our outstanding bands and combos before, during and after the concert. The on-stage performance began with WTAMU Jazz Band I who were later joined by Jeff Coffin for his high-energy, 2nd line style chart called "Tall and Lanky" which also featured many students who were called-out randomly by Mr. Coffin to solo.

After intermission the Mu'tet joined Jeff for an amazing set which closed out the night. Our students were absolutely amazing in every way. They came before spring classes started for rehearsals and worked incredibly hard to be prepared for their fantastic performances. All of us, students and directors alike, learned so much, were inspired and felt this investment more than exceeded our expectations. The guest artists were beyond gracious with their time as classes that ran hours

beyond what was scheduled and in the words of one of the students, "I have always loved our trips to Greeley (for the jazz festival there), but this year, Greeley came here times ten!" On behalf of Doug Storey and myself, we would like to thank all of the students, faculty, staff and alumni who helped make this such a great success! brings here what we have traditionally traveled hours to go see! Bringing jazz performances of this caliber to our area is an event we would like to be able to continue in the future. It would be wonderful to have the events that our students have had to travel hours to experience be presented in our local venues.

**Nick Scales**

## Piano at WTAMU

West Texas A&M University's School of Music hosted its annual **Piano Festival** with an opening recital featuring the **Unison Piano Duo** on February 22 in Mary Moody Northern Recital Hall. The event was sponsored by the Festival and the University Guest Artist Series.

The theme was "music making in ensemble" when the duo took the stage to perform works for two pianos and for one piano, four-hands by Schubert, Fauré, Corigliano, Stravinsky and Piazzolla. The WT Piano Ensemble also performed. They presented the world premiere of *Molto Perpetuo* for one piano, eight hands composed for the group by WTAMU composition professor BJ Brooks.



**Members of the WTAMU Piano Ensemble are Luke Haile, Puntita Panyadee, Cong Nguyen, and Lynsi Porterfield.**

On Saturday, February 23, piano students from around the region performed in judged events for elementary, junior and senior divisions. Each student received written critiques of their performances as well as a certificate from the WTAMU School of Music. The outstanding performers, selected by festival judges, were presented that afternoon in an Honors Recital in the Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex Recital Hall.

The **Unison Piano Duo** features husband and wife pianists, Du Huang and Xiao Hu, who have “dazzled and moved audiences with their heartfelt emotion and seamless ensemble... the best piano duo concert heard in years,” according to the Wuhan Morning Post in China. The New York Concert Review wrote, “...fleet and sparkling... an unusually high level of ensemble playing.” The famous piano duet team Weekley and Arganbright gave the following endorsement: “We had the great pleasure of hearing the Unison Piano Duo, their playing displayed extraordinary musical sensitivity to the contrasting styles of composers, clean and strong technique and both warmth and excitement. They will bring great pleasure and inspiration to audiences everywhere.” Huang and Hu received their early training at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and later graduated from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music as students of Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff. Both hold a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where they studied with pianist Gil Kalish. They have served as adjudicators for the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival, Chicago Two-Piano Festival and Competition and numerous Music Teacher Association Auditions in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The duo enjoys a busy career performing recitals, as concerto soloists with orchestras and as collaborators with choirs. They have served as piano faculty at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa since 2001.

## WT Music Academy

The **WT Music Academy** was launched successfully in the fall of 2012. Now, piano students are offering piano lessons to the community children and adults. The Academy also serves as a laboratory for piano pedagogy students to gain hands-on teaching experience before they graduate. There are two Piano Performance-Pedagogy majors graduating this year, after two full years of courses in Piano Pedagogy: Lynsi Porterfield (Amarillo) and J. Clay Allen (Ruidoso, NM). Faculty advisor for the Academy is Dr. Choong-ha Nam.

In March 2013, the piano studios of Dr. Nam and Dr. Parr-Scanlin put together a lecture-recital on the life and music of Fanny Hensel, the sister of Felix Mendelssohn. Students Clay Allen, Lesleigh Zundt, Lynsi Porterfield, Luke Haile, Tori Castillo, and Becky Seth presented an excellent performance of Hensel's delightful pieces and read papers on her life and music.

## Strings at WTAMU

In June, 2012, the **Harrington String Quartet** performed 3 concerts for the 16<sup>th</sup> season of Chamber Music at the Barn in Wichita, KS. They performed Haydn's *String Quartet in E-flat, Op. 33/2 "The Joke"*, Schumann's *String Quartet #3 in A*, and Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*. The quartet collaborated with the Phoenix Chorale to record works by Ola Gjeilo on the CHANDOS Super Audio CD, *Northern Lights*. The CD was released by CHANDOS in February, 2012. It has received recognition in Europe, the Classical Billboard Charts,

and was named the "Best Vocal Album" in the Classical category on iTunes for 2012. The quartet can also be heard on an Albany Records Super Audio CD of the music of Daniel McCarthy, and is anticipating a CD release with chamber works of Mendelssohn on Centaur label.

The quartet's 2012-2013 Concert Series was entitled "**A EUROPEAN TOUR**" and consisted of the following:

*Sounds of Central Europe* (October 5, 2012) with performances of Dohnanyi's *String Quartet, Op. 7* and Dvořák's *String Quartet, Op. 105 in A flat major*. The performance was presented at the Polk Street United Methodist Church, Amarillo, TX.

*Leipzig Connection* (March 8, 2013) with performances of works by Bach, Mendelssohn, and Grieg. The performance was presented at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Amarillo, TX.

*Inspired by England* (April 12, 2013) with performances of music by Purcell, Haydn, and Elgar and featuring guest pianist, Ani Gogova. The performance was presented at WTAMU in Mary Moody Northen Hall, Canyon, TX.



The Harrington String Quartet: Rossitza Jekova-Goza, violin; Keith Redpath, violin; Emmanuel Lopez, violoncello; and Vessilin Todorov, viola

## David Murray Double Bass Scholarship

The WTAMU double bass studio continues to grow and flourish and is proud to announce the formation of a bass scholarship fund named in honor of the professor who put the program on the map! The **David Murray Double Bass Award** came about as current professor of double bass and WT alum, Nick Scales, wanted to start an award exclusively for bassists in the program and felt it should honor David



Murray, who was professor of bass at WT from 1985 to 1997. David is now Professor of Double Bass at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana and is an internationally acclaimed performer/educator who continues to be a great supporter of our programs. We are hoping to have David on campus sometime during the 2013-14 school year for a performance and to recognize his service with a possible bass studio alumni event held in conjunction. If you are an alum of the bass studio from any era, we would love to have you check in so we can keep you posted about this and other "bassic" activities! We also wish to thank Dr. Mark Bartley and the WTAMU symphony for his efforts in kick starting this scholarship!

For those who are interested in more information or contributing to the scholarship fund, please contact, Nick Scales, Assistant Professor of Double Bass at [nscales@wtamu.edu](mailto:nscales@wtamu.edu) or call (806) 651-2849.



WTAMU Double Bassist, Robert Periot

## Woodwinds at WTAMU

### Bassoon Bash

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Bassoon Bash took place on May 4, 2013 in Northen 1010 (the Instrumental Rehearsal Hall). The Bassoon Bash was the brain child of Dr. Tina Carpenter when she began having her bassoon students give a Studio Recital. After a few years WT alums and bassoonists from the area schools were invited to participate and some of them even

made arrangements and wrote original compositions for the ensemble (Mike Johnson, Kathy Kendle and WT's Dr. BJ Brooks as well as Dr. Carpenter herself). The bash is a one day affair with a rehearsal in the morning and the performance taking place in early afternoon. It is a great way to get people enthusiastic about the bassoon and a wonderful recruiting tool. 2013's Bash had 25 participants and the farthest distant traveled by a bassoonist was from Odessa, TX.

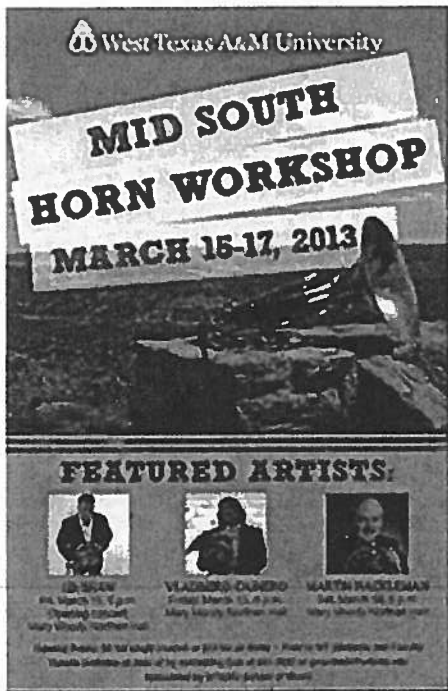


## Brass at WTAMU

In December the WTAMU Trumpet Ensemble submitted a recording for consideration in the National Trumpet Competition and in January they were informed that they had advanced to the semifinal round. Only 30 groups were selected and from March 13-17 the WT ensemble traveled to George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, to compete against some of the top music schools from around the country such as Baylor University, the Eastman School of Music, Florida State University, Northwestern University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of Tennessee.

During Spring Break Dr. Guglielmo Manfredi and the WTAMU horn studio hosted the Mid South Horn Workshop. Master classes and recitals were presented by three guest artists, J. D. Shaw, Vladimiro Cainero and Martin Hackleman. See poster below.





This past February the WTAMU Trombone Choir, directed by Dr. Rai Morales, presented a series of performances at several Central Texas venues and presented a clinic performance at the 2013 Texas Music Educators Association Convention.

The TMEA clinic topic was "Using Small Ensembles To Enhance Students' Large Ensemble Experience." Dr. Morales discussed several key items including: tone, articulations, styles, dynamics, performance opportunities and several others. The Trombone Choir tied each of these topics together by performing several pieces. They included: *Stars and Stripes Forever*, *Sonata Piano Forte*, *Fanfare for Cala*, *Salvation is Created*, and *The Pines of the Apian Way*.

The Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble performed a concert during the 2013 South Central Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference which was held on April 4-6 in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Lewis also performed a recital during the conference. Dr. Lewis also presented a clinic entitled "Assessment in Music Performance" during the Great Plains Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference held May 3-5 in Kearney, NE.

## The Faculty Brass Quintet

The WTAMU Faculty Brass Quintet has been active performing and educating future young musicians. In February 2011 they were invited to perform at the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors Conference held at the University of Florida, and while there they also performed at Florida State University, Valdosta State University, and the University of North Florida. Also in 2011 they were featured on the National Public Radio show "Pipedreams" performing two pieces in collaboration with Air Force Academy organist, Joseph Galema. During the 2012-2013 academic year they will be performing at 10 separate elementary schools, mixing music and education to help excite the younger generation about studying music. They are also

tentatively planning a high school performance tour to the Dallas area sometime in May 2013.

The Faculty Brass Quintet consists of Dr. William Takacs, associate professor of trumpet; Steven Siegel, trumpet graduate assistant; Dr. Guglielmo Manfredi, assistant professor of horn; Dr. Rai Morales, assistant professor of trombone; and Dr. Jeremy Lewis, assistant professor of tuba and euphonium.

## Composition at WTAMU

Dr. Brooks and Dr. Matthew Saunders of Oklahoma Panhandle State University (now of Lakeland Community College of Kirtland, Ohio), organized the Region VI Conference of the Society of Composers, Inc. This event attracted international participation and united the School of Music students and faculty in a uniquely musical way. Ten full concerts were performed over the course of 2 days featuring almost all of the faculty to some degree and a majority of the School of Music's students. Eighty juried contemporary compositions from composers across the United States were performed by all of the major ensembles as well as a variety of chamber groups and soloists.

In March the annual Royal L. Brantley Composition Competition sponsored by the Iota Pi Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia was held on campus and WT student composer, Charles A. Luttrell, placed first with his *Quartet No. 1*.

<https://w.soundcloud.com/player/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fapi.soundcloud.com%2Ftracks%2F86378870>





## The 2013 Showcase of Music

The 33rd annual Showcase of Music was presented on Friday, March 1 at the Globe News Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo. The concert was performed in memory of Lily Jack "Jackie" Mercer for her generous support of WTAMU's Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities.

Mercer, who passed away in August 2012, left her entire estate to WTAMU to benefit scholarships in the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities. The gift, totaling more than \$1 million, will benefit current and future students for years to come. Mercer, a lifelong supporter of the arts, earned two degrees from WTAMU – a Bachelor of Music in 1943 and a Master of Education in 1951.



**Director of the Music School, Dr. Robert Hansen, introduces two of the Mercer Scholars – percussionist, Andrew Gonzales and oboist, Maggie Moore.**

Mercer's generous gift works hand-in-hand with the mission of the annual Showcase of Music. The School of Music presented its first Showcase in 1980 to raise funds for scholarships while highlighting student talent. Since then funds have been raised through sponsorships, advertising and ticket sales to add more than \$500,000 to the program's scholarship fund. During its 33-year history, the program has helped thousands of music students realize their dream of a college education with scholarships funded through the Showcase of Music, and Mercer's gift will provide countless opportunities for many more students. The evening's program included a ceremony highlighting Mercer and the impact of her generous gift as well as ensemble performances and feature videos of faculty, students and supporters. Audiences experienced performances on the main stage by the Symphony Orchestra, Choirs and Symphonic Band. In addition, there were special appearances by two student groups (a flute duet and a piece for one piano, eight hands), and the premiere of a flute concerto composed by Assistant Professor of Music, BJ Brooks, featuring Helen Blackburn, our new Yvonne Franklin Endowed Chair, Artist Teacher of Flute.

This year's Showcase Concert was sponsored by Dr. Kent Roberts and Ilene Roberts Balliett Foundation. All proceeds will benefit the student scholarship fund. If you are interested in contributing to or sponsoring a scholarship that will benefit our deserving students, please contact the WTAMU music office at 806-651-2840.

## School of Music New Faculty



**Helen Blackburn**

**Helen Blackburn** is the School of Music's new *Yvonne Franklin Endowed Chair*, Artist Teacher of Flute. She brings with her a great wealth of experience. She is principal flutist with the Dallas Opera Orchestra and is also a core member of the nationally acclaimed modern chamber music ensemble "Voices of Change." As principal flutist with the Breckenridge (CO) Music Festival, she has been featured several times as a soloist with the orchestra. She was also invited to be principal flute for the inaugural season of the Dallas Chamber Symphony and subs as extra flute with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Blackburn has numerous credits with major performing arts organizations, both as a featured soloist and as a member, including the Aspen Music Festival, the South Bohemia Music Festival, the Dallas Chamber Orchestra, the Brevard (NC) Music Center, and the Chicago Civic Orchestra. She appears frequently in recital as a soloist and also with her husband, Drew Lang, in their flute/marimba duo, and is a prize winner of the Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition, the Ft. Collins Young Artist Competition, and the Aspen Wind Concerto Competition.

Her teaching background includes positions as Adjunct Professor of Flute at Texas Christian University, University of North Texas, and University of Oklahoma. She has previously served on the faculties of Stephen F. Austin State University and McMurry University. An advocate of contemporary music, she works closely with many living composers. Ms. Blackburn received her bachelor of music degree (summa cum laude) from West Texas State University (WTAMU) and her master of music degree from Northwestern University. Her primary teachers were Sally Turk, Walfrid Kujala, and Brad Garner.

Helen is a certified Bikram Yoga instructor and is also an avid dog lover (especially her 2 rescue dogs: Shiner and Otis).

**Summer Events: WT's Big, Fat Flute Shindig** (June 21-24) and a Flute Clinic at the Texas Bandmasters Association, July 22 in San Antonio, TX





**Dr. Sean Pullen**

**Dr. Sean Pullen** is the School of Music's new Director of Choral Activities. He conducts two large mixed choirs; the Chorale and the Collegiate Choir. In the spring of 2013, the Chorale took a tour through Texas, performing in Odessa, San Antonio, Austin, Killeen, and Waco. The combined choirs finished the spring 2013 semester with a performance of Mozart's *Requiem*.

Dr. Pullen received his DMA degree in conducting from Claremont Graduate University, and his Master of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from the University of Houston, with additional undergraduate work at Texas Christian University. Pullen grew up watching and listening to his father's choirs (Milton Pullen), and also enjoyed being a member of his choirs at Clear Creek High School, Pepperdine University, and various other schools. His mother, Evie Pullen, is a pianist and has taught elementary music and college level piano. Pullen has two siblings. His sister, Tara, is a volleyball, tennis, and track coach in League City, Texas, and his twin brother, Kyle Pullen, is the choir director at Oklahoma Christian University.

Prior to coming to WTAMU, Dr. Pullen was the Director of Choral Activities at Abilene Christian University, and from 1998-2009, he was the choral director at Clear Creek High School in League City, Texas. During his tenure the Clear Creek choirs received numerous awards and invitations, including performances at the Texas Music Educators Association conventions, the American Choral Directors Association national conventions, the West Point Military Academy, and the Crystal Cathedral in Los Angeles. His Clear Creek choirs were consistent UIL Sweepstakes recipients and choral festival winners. Prior to Clear Creek High School, Dr. Pullen served on the voice faculty at Pepperdine University.

As a baritone soloist he has performed in several major works including Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Brahms' *German Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Haydn's *Harmony Mass*. In 2000, he was featured as a guest soloist with the Texas All-State Choir in a performance of Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*. Dr. Pullen serves frequently as a clinician for choirs across the state. He has conducted clinics for several TMEA region

choirs. Dr. Pullen is also often called upon as a choral adjudicator.

Dr. Pullen's lives with three beautiful red-heads. His wife, Amanda, stays at home with the kids, and will likely resume teaching elementary music when the girls get older. His daughter, Megan, is six. In May, she will graduate kindergarten with highest honors. Little Jenna is three, and she's cuter than any button.

Besides conducting choirs, Pullen enjoys any sport, especially baseball. Golf has become one of his favorite pastimes despite a tremendous lack of skill and he also enjoys taking vacations with his family in the Colorado Rockies every summer.

## School of Music Faculty Footnotes



**School of Music Faculty at first faculty meeting – Spring 2013:** L to R: Dr. Russ Teweleit, Dr. William Takacs, Don Lefevre, Tracy See, Dr. Sean Pullen, Dr. Robert Krause, Dr. B. J. Brooks, Helen Blackburn, Dr. Ted DuBois, Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, Dr. Guglielmo Manfredi, Dr. Cloyce Kuhnert, Dr. Jeremy Lewis, Jovan Munoz, Dr. Edward Kahler, Dr. Robert Hansen, Dr. Denise Parr-Scanlin and Dr. Tina Carpenter.

## Dr. Mark Bartley

The newly designated School of Music also saw the appointment of **Dr. Mark Bartley** as Associate Director. Half of his teaching load is now devoted to administration, but he remains conductor of the WTAMU Symphony and maintains his studio of conducting students.

In addition to his teaching and administrative duties, 2012 was a busy year for Mark. He led the Amarillo Symphony in the Fourth of July Fireworks concert, *Kinderkonzerts*, and the Lone Star Ballet's *Nutcracker*. He presented a clinic at TCDA to help choral conductors work with orchestras and adjudicated and led clinics for several school orchestras throughout Texas including conducting the TMEA All-Region Symphony Orchestra in Region V (Arlington). He also conducted a semi-staged performance of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* on the WTAMU campus and at the La Rita Theatre in Dalhart, Texas as part of the Chamber Buffs series of outreach concerts. He hosted the Amarillo Symphony's Young Artists Competition and served as director for the Chamber Music Strings Camp. Dr. Bartley was also awarded tenure and was promoted to associate professor as well as earning the Student Recognition

Award for Teaching Excellence from the Texas A&M University System.

This is his seventh year as a member of the faculty at WTAMU. Mark's wife, Kellie, teaches fifth-grade orchestras in the Amarillo ISD and is a member of the Amarillo Symphony. They make their home in Canyon with their three children Anna (13), Nathan (9), and Kathleen (4).

## Dr. Robert Krause

Beginning with the fall semester of 2012 Robert Krause has stepped down as Interim Department Head and returned to his first love, teaching. He has thoroughly enjoyed further developing his Freshman Seminar classes and in the spring taught his favorite graduate class, History of Opera. This summer he will be returning to teach at the Interlochen Arts Camp for his 36<sup>th</sup> summer. For the past three seasons he has had the pleasure of performing with the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale as second oboe and English horn. In the fall he had the wonderfully memorable experience of performing in the orchestra with his former student, Caryn Crutchfield (principal oboe), his present student and Caryn's former student, Taryn Albin (second oboe). See the three generations photo below.



Caryn Crutchfield, Taryn Albin  
and Robert Krause

## Dr. Choong-ha Nam

Choong-ha Nam in her 6th year at WTAMU, has had a busy performing year working with faculty collaborators Manny Lopez, Keith Redpath, Tina Carpenter, Mark Trimble, Denise Parr-Scanlin, and Helen Blackburn in several concerts. In May 2012 she presented a lecture-demonstration "on tone production at the piano" for the Suzuki Association of the Americas conference in Minneapolis, MN, and for the College Music Society Rocky Mountain Chapter Conference in Portales, NM. She enjoys working with students in class piano, piano pedagogy classes as well as applied piano. Dr. Nam was also awarded tenure and was promoted to associate professor

## Dr. Keith Redpath

Keith Redpath performed *Chaconne on a Latvian Folk Theme*

for solo violin, by Tālvāldis Ķeniņš at the U.S. Latvian Song and Dance Festival in Milwaukee, WI in July of 2012. The performance was mentioned/reviewed in two Latvian weekly papers. In *Laiks*, August 4-10, 2012, Armands Birkens wrote, "The brilliant violinist's playing spoke to our hearts and emotions." In *Latvija Amerikā*, July 28-August 4, 2012, Juris Ķeniņš (the composer's son) wrote, "Keith Redpath's intellectual interpretation of Tālvāldis Ķeniņš' extremely demanding "Chaconne" was technically flawless."

## Dr. William Takacs

William Takacs presented an informative clinic at the 2011 TMEA Convention entitled "An Understandable Approach to Musical Expression" which suggested ways in which to help younger musicians grasp concepts of style and musicality. In the summer of 2012 he was invited to perform three concerts with the New Mexico Philharmonic featuring Gustav Holst's "The Planets" and the film music of John Williams. He continues to perform as principal trumpet in the Amarillo Symphony. In 2010 he and his wife, Karen (WT alum and oboist), were featured as joint soloists in Aaron Copland's *Quiet City*. Their two-year-old son, Liam, is adorable and is already a classical music fan!

## Alumni Notes



Ismael Alfaro

Ismael Alfaro (BM with All-Level Certification, fall 2006 – Clarinet) is in his 6<sup>th</sup> year in the Amarillo ISD where he is the director of bands at Travis Middle School. In the fall of 2013 he will become the director of bands at Palo Duro High School and the head director in the Palo Duro Music Cluster in the Amarillo ISD. [Clarinetfreak2002@yahoo.com](mailto:Clarinetfreak2002@yahoo.com)



Dr. Alan Asher

Dr. Alan Asher (BM, 1983 – Violin) – I just finished my first semester as the Music Librarian at the University of Florida after spending the last 11 years as the Art & Music Librarian at the University of Northern Iowa. Before UNI, I was briefly the Music Librarian at Sam Houston State, and before that, was a music professor at Valdosta State University in GA, University of Nebraska at Kearney, and Eastern New Mexico University. My wife and I have a terrific, if spoiled and precocious, 6 year old daughter, and are enjoying the fact that it isn't -20 degrees outside. [aasher@ufl.edu](mailto:aasher@ufl.edu)



Alice Gordon Cooke

Alice Gordon Cooke (student, '55-56 and adjunct instructor, '67-69 – Oboe) has taught strings in the Amarillo ISD from 1985. After her retirement she is presently serving as a “music assistant” in the AISD at Austin Middle School, Sam Houston Middle School and Horace Mann Middle School. She also has a private oboe studio and performs as principal oboe in the Town and Gown Band conducted by Dr. Gary Garner. [acooke5@suddenlink.net](mailto:acooke5@suddenlink.net)



Caryn Herrick Crutchfield

Caryn Herrick Crutchfield (BM, 1994 and MM, 1996 – Oboe) is principal oboe of the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, oboist in the West Texas Winds Woodwind Quintet, and teaches at music camps for West Texas A&M University and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. She also teaches private lessons to around 20 students, teaches band at St. Ann’s School and elementary music at Midland Montessori School. Caryn appeared as soloist in the first concert of the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a performance of Tomaso Albinoni’s *Concerto for Oboe and Strings in D minor, Op. 9, No. 2*. Caryn and her husband, Kevin, have three children: Morgan (8), Preston (5) and Alyssa (2). [caryn2525@aol.com](mailto:caryn2525@aol.com)



Ben Torres

Ben Torres (BM with All-Level Certification, 2004 – Saxophone) is in his 9<sup>th</sup> year in Richardson ISD and his first year as the K-6 music specialist at Brentfield Elementary in Dallas where he also directs the Brentfield Singers, the Rhythm Cats Orff Ensemble and serves as the JJ Pearce Area Team Leader. Prior to this, he was the K-6 music specialist at Richland Elementary where he also directed a choir and Orff ensemble, which was selected to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention in 2011, and served as the Berkner Area Team Leader. Ben completed his Orff Schulwerk training at SMU and teaches movement and recorder in the Orff Schulwerk course at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, as well as other courses in the country. Mr. Torres was the Texas Invited Clinician at the

TMEA Convention in 2013. He has also served as the Secretary for the North Texas Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) and is now the incoming Chapter Vice-President. [benjamin.torres@risd.org](mailto:benjamin.torres@risd.org)

Send us your information! Email any news to us at [rkrause@wtamu.edu](mailto:rkrause@wtamu.edu) and we will include it the next issue of *Ritornello*.

### SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACULTY AND STAFF 2012-2013

- Abbasova, Mila - Class Piano/Theory
- Barger, James – Electronic/Computer Music
- Bartley, Dr. Mark - Orchestra – Associate Director, School of Music
- Blackburn, Helen - Flute
- Brooks, Dr. B. J. - Composition and Theory
- Brooks, Melanie - Music Education
- Cansler, Dr. Joe Ella - Voice
- Carpenter, Dr. Tina - Bassoon and Theory
- Conley, David - Music Education
- DuBois, Dr. Ted - Music History
- Goza, Dr. Rossitza - Violin (HSQ)
- Hansen, Dr. Robert - Director, School of Music
- Kahler, Dr. Edward - Music Therapy – Associate Dean
- Krause, Dr. Robert - Oboe, Music Literature, Theory and Freshman Seminar
- Kuhnert, Dr. Cloyce – Voice and Opera
- Lefevre, Don - Band and Saxophone
- Lewis, Dr. Jeremy - Tuba/Euphonium
- Lopez, Emmanuel - Violoncello (HSQ)
- Manfredi, Dr. Guglielmo - Horn
- Meerdink, Dr. Christopher - Voice
- Morales, Dr. Raimundo - Trombone
- Nam, Dr. Choong-Ha - Piano
- Oglesby, Matt - Voice
- Parr-Scanlin, Dr. Denise - Piano
- Pullen, Dr. Sean - Choir
- Redpath, Dr. Keith - Violin (HSQ)
- Rennier, Dr. James - Music Appreciation
- Scales, Dr. Nicholas - Double Bass and Theory
- Storey, Doug - Clarinet
- Takacs, Dr. William - Trumpet
- Tariq, Dr. Susan Martin - Percussion
- Teweleit, Dr. Russ - Music Education and Band
- Todorov, Vesselin - Viola (HSQ)

#### Graduate Assistants

- Hill, Cynthia
- Kaspar, Andrew
- Medina, Romina
- Miller, Corrina
- Powell, Josh
- Rose, Megan
- Siegel, Steven
- Snider, Robert
- Tolentino, Mateo
- Whitson Matthew
- Williams, Lyndi

#### Staff

- Burrus, Sandra – College of FAH – Accounting
- Munoz, Jovan – Music Library and Band Camp Secretary
- See, Tracy – Ensemble Secretary
- Smith, Rita – School of Music Secretary
- Lyndi Williams – School of Music Recorder



# **School of Music Summer Activities**

## **All-State Choir Camp**

June 12-15, 2013

Contact information:

Matt Oglesby, Camp Coordinator

[moglesby@wtamu.edu](mailto:moglesby@wtamu.edu) or 806.651-2850

## **Chamber Music Strings Camp**

June 16-21, 2013

Contact information:

Tracy See, Camp Secretary

[tsee@wtamu.edu](mailto:tsee@wtamu.edu) or 806.651-2854

## **WTAMU Band Camp**

July 7-19, 2013

Contact information:

Jovan Munoz, Camp Secretary

[jmunoz@wtamu.edu](mailto:jmunoz@wtamu.edu) or 806.651-2828

## **Ritornello**

WTAMU School of Music

Alumni Newsletter

Contact information:

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