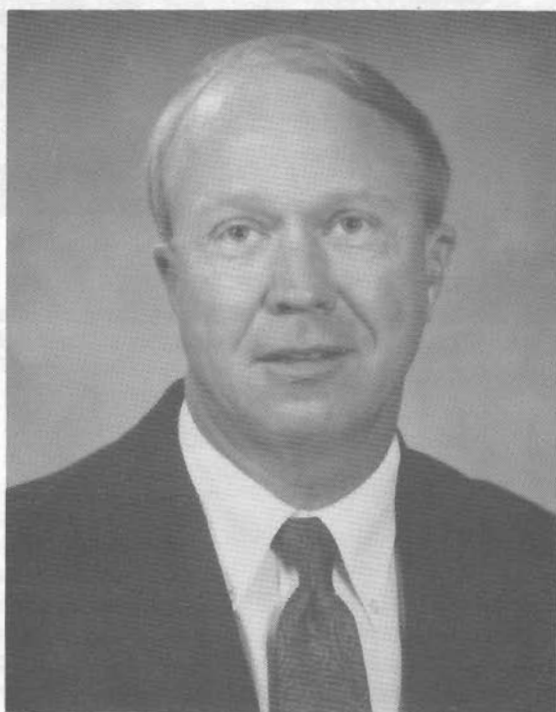


# RITORNELLO

## Department of Music and Dance West Texas State University

Volume 15, Number 2

Spring 1992



### **Milton A. Pullen Named New Choral Director**

Milton Pullen will assume the position of Director of Choral Activities at West Texas State University beginning in the fall semester.

Mr. Pullen has taught choral music 27 years, all of them in Texas. Fourteen of these years have been at Clear Lake High School which is located in the southwest suburban area of Houston. His tenure at CLHS is unusual in that it involves two seven-year periods: 1972 to 1979 and again from 1985 to 1992. For six years, 1979 to 1985, he was Director of Choral Activities at Abilene Christian University.

"Milt" is one of our state's best known choral directors and has served as guest conductor or clinician in almost every region of Texas. He is widely recognized for his success as a conductor of all-region choirs.

WTSU's new choral director has been an active leader in TMEA. He served as All-State Choir Organizer in 1975-77, State Vocal Division Chairman, 1977-79, and TMEA President, 1980-81.

### **WTSU Inaugurates Pilot Program in Student Teaching**

In February, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved a pilot project in student teaching to be sponsored by West Texas State University.

The heart of this research program is found in three main points: (1) The name "student teaching" would be changed to "internship." (2) The time involvement would be greatly expanded to include an entire school year of full-time experience. (3) The intern would be paid by the school district a minimum of \$7,000 for the year's work.

For the 1992-93 academic year, six independent school districts have committed to take an intern. They are Amarillo, Borger, Canyon, Dumas, Hereford, and Houston's Ft. Bend School District. Three or four of these positions will be in the teaching field of music; the others will be in special education.

Student interest in this new program is high. Over 30 students applied for the 6 available positions. One of the most interesting aspects of the project is that a student intern can be placed anywhere in Texas. Schools interested in employing an intern should contact Harry Haines at the WTSU music office.

## 1992 MUSIC AND DANCE DEPARTMENT PATRONS

The following is a list of donors for the 1992 annual solicitation. Donors support the publication of *Ritornello*, the alumni reception at TMEA, and, most importantly, music scholarships. The names were listed in the SHOWCASE OF MUSIC program which was held on April 10 and which was once again a resounding success. We were able to raise \$7,000 this year for music scholarships. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Music and Dance at West Texas State University.

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## Alumni Notes

**Judy Wilson Smallwood** (McLarty for a long while; 65 BME) married Joneil in 1991, continues to teach K-6, and is still active in church activities in Snyder. Daughter Kima is community ed. person at Scott & White Hospital, while daughter Kelli toils in pharmacy school.

**Sandra McMillen** (67 BME) is choir director at Cedar Hill HS south of Duncanville, and is very active in both the Dallas MΦE and the Dallas/Fort Worth NATS chapter.

**David Stockton** (67 BS) update: the vocal concerts at the Leipzig Gewandhaus last winter were such a smashing success that a CD of "The Magic of Bel Canto" has been marketed.

**Dr. David** (70 BME, 72 MA) and **Mary Jo (Adams)** (69 BS) Fennell light up the San Angelo education horizon, for he teaches sax and clarinet at Angelo State and is assistant director of bands; she teaches special ed. in SA ISD. They both play clarinet in SA community band, since she practices more than she did at WT. Son Chris, a junior at Central HS, chose clarinet as his instrument also. David earned a Ph.D. in fine arts in '88 at that school in Lubbock, and plays principal clarinet in the SA symphony.

**Dr. J. Bryan Burton** (71 BME) is associate professor of music education at West Chester University in West Chester, PA, creating a multicultural music education program while teaching methods courses, supervising student teachers, and doing other relevant education chores. He's still doing lots in native American music, such as presentations and writing a book. WCU has 300 music majors and 63 full-time music faculty.

**Edelma DeLeon Huntley** (72 MA Eng, piano student) is studying Beethoven's Emperor concerto for fun and to make herself "do something difficult," though she expects never to perform it. *Ritornello* brings to mind many pleasant memories of places and people, she writes. She's a full professor in English at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, where her husband is an administrator as well as textbook writer.

**David** (73 BME, 74 MA) and **Carla (Bohannon)** (74 BME) Groves have lived near Atlanta, GA, for many years. He is president and owner of Stone Mountain Lasers, Inc. It specializes in large-scale outdoor laser shows, the first one being at Stone Mountain Park, with an annual audience of two million. Recent shows in Texas include that at the State Fair Cotton Bowl and at Fiesta Texas theme park in San Antonio. Carla stays busy managing the office and sons Alfred, Michael, Jeffrey, and Jonathan.

**Janice Perkins Easterday** (74 BME) is active in the Amarillo music performance scene singing in *Pirates of Penzance* and *Into the Woods*. Recently she produced "Janice & Friends V" as a continuing event for the Perkins-Olivier Memorial Scholarship at Amarillo College.

**Carol Mahler** (pronounced *May-ler*; 74 BME) terms the last decade in Bay St. Louis, Miss., idyllic, for the town's on the lovely Gulf Coast, she homeschools 11- and 9-year-old daughters, her piano studio load is light, veterinarian husband James has a comfortable practice, and their lifepace is moderate—all of which is much better than the hectic overload in all areas previously.

**Li-ly Chang** (77 MM) is included in the current *Who's Who in Music* and was certified for teaching piano by the Music Teachers National Association. She and husband Jim Cunningham will tour most areas of Texas in the 92-93 season. There's an informative article on him and the professional life in the May-Apr. 91 *Saxophone Journal*.

**Rosemary Burkhart Tarter** (77 BM) lives in Bedford with her tall 13-year-old son and works in Irving for the Hertz Corporation. Her classmates all remember her vivacious portrayal of Musetta in the WT production of *La Bohème*. Shortly after graduating, she developed leukoplakia, a bacterial throat infection, which deleted her middle register for a few years. She sang in community theatre productions after that, and hopes to resume study and performance soon. She has fond memories of WT people, as well as the years of work and play here.

**Mike** (78 BME, 82 MA) **Roberts** teaches in Guymon, OK, schools, is adjunct faculty at nearby Panhandle State University in form-and-analysis class, and tunes pianos for fun, while **Kris (Mathis)** (84 BMT) has a large piano studio and does the usual keyboard stuff at church services. Their three daughters are a great joy, especially the very young one who had heart surgery recently to straighten things out; now she's growing at a rapid rate.

**Billy Talley** (78 BME, 81 MM) took his Tascosa HS (Amarillo) choir on tour down to the Gulf Coast, where they sang the National Anthem in the Astrodome prior to the season-opening Astros/Reds baseball game. Excellent!

**Pete Demas** (80 BMT) does exceptional work as a psychodramatist, an uncrowded professional field requiring stringent training for a very high performance level. This is an exciting, productive method for positive results. He works in Houston.

**Gerry Langner** (81 MM) plans to head south down to Michigan State in the fall of 1992 to commence doctoral work, taking a sabbatical from Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Outlook, Saskatchewan.

**David Wimberly** (81 BM) completed anesthesiology residency at Emory University in Atlanta, married Kelli Rogers of Houston, is back in Clear Lake practicing. He's ready to try practicing something very different in his spare time, so he's looking for an alto sax and a teacher. It will certainly be a change from playing bassoon for a decade, more or less.

**Teri Waldrop Burnett** (82 BMT) heard "Take Me Back to Tulsa," so she and Jerry went, he with Shell Oil, she to practice marital and family therapy, as well as to work with adolescents at Christian Family Institute. They're happy to be back in OK. A new family member is Cami, a delightful doggie.

**Nita Goode Demoor** (83 BMT) took time off from San Antonio state hospital to catch up real quick on Rebecca and Stephanie, when she had twin boys to balance the family. Father Tom is learning lots of nitty-gritty for his work as a child psychiatrist at UT-SA Health Science Center.

**Will** (83 BME) and **Kathy (Gebert)** (83 BMT) **Fairbanks** are in Newport Beach, California, since he completed seminary in Boston. He's assistant pastor at Newport Center United Methodist Church, so you know how varied his work is. Kathy looks after young **Zerfing, Rebecca**, and their most recent **baby girl**.

**Heather Harney** (83 BME) married Doug Voran last Washington's birthday. They make beautiful music together in Amarillo Chamber Singers; otherwise, she teaches music at Sundown elementary and he manages Corrigan's Jewelers in the mall.

**Tony Tackitt** (83 BME) has been promoted to program director, which means he's head of radiation therapy division, at Amarillo College. He's still busy zapping at Harrington Cancer Center as well as planning, supervising, and teaching.

**Alan Domme** (84 BME) completed training in radiation therapy and works at Allan Shivers Radiation Therapy Center in Austin, a facility comparable to Amarillo's Harrington Cancer Center. Barton Springs and Zilker Park were deciding factors when he was choosing where to work.

**Gerry Lewis** (84 BME) remains happy and busy as pastor of Eagle Mountain Baptist church in Fort Worth. He still sings as much as possible—revivals, youth and children's camps, college BSU's, church banquets—as well as his own church choir every week. **Eva Dee Priddy** (84 BS, band twirler) is still full-time mom and part-time homebound teacher with Azle ISD. **Tove** (4) and **Zeke** (1) are the pride of mom and dad's life.

**Cloyce Beard Stradley** (84 BM, 86 MM, 87 voice faculty) paused briefly in teaching and studying to have Colin Bradford, a healthy 9 lbs., during spring break.

**Tina Walton** (84 BMT) continues as expressive arts therapist at John Peter Smith psychiatric hospital in Fort Worth. Her singing career keeps her busy, involving a tour to Europe last summer, a stint at Johnny High's Country Revue, and her group Infinity opened at Tarrant County Convention Center in Stars for Children.

**Tammy Nagel Griffin** (86 BME) teaches music at several elementary schools in Las Cruces, NM, having recently received elementary certification. Husband **Matt** and little **Nichole** live under the same roof, and they see each other as often as possible.

**Doug Strange** (86 BMMB) recently was awarded an M.S., Bible, by Oklahoma Christian University of Science and Arts (Church of Christ). His chosen field is youth ministry, and he's working contentedly in a Mesquite, Texas, church.

**Shauna Bowman Unger** (86 BMMB) is still manager of Houston Grand Opera studio. She and husband Guinn have a major production this summer when baby #1 arrives about the end of July.

**Darren Dye** (87 BM, 89 MM) was ordained in December 1991, married Monica in April 1992, and continues being a versatile assistant pastor at Canyon Christian Church, doing counseling, youth work, whatever it takes.

**Tracy Shirk** (88 BME) is director of music at a Presbyterian church in Humble, Texas.

**Rebecca Shuler Stewart** (88 BME) moved to Sand Springs, OK, when Brett finished his military hitch. She's teaching elementary music 4-6 while he commutes to OSU to study mechanical engineering-acrospace.

**Jennifer Shirey** (89 BMT) was thrust into a supervisory position at Big Spring state hospital and she's swimming, not sinking, which is no surprise. She was expecting basic music therapy-type duties, but she's meeting this challenge.

**Talara Hammons** (89 BMT) is working on a M.S. in school psychology at University of Houston; it deals with testing and evaluation, which she first worked with while an intern in Arizona.

**Wildy Zumwalt** (89 BM) continues doctoral work at Florida State, and will teach summer saxophone while the usual professor is away.

**Marlys Edborg** (90 BMMB) is executive director of San Angelo Symphony, development director for SA AIDS Foundation, and also has a private violin studio of 15.

**Mike Keig** (90 BME) and **Leslie Gerrard** (88 BME) were married recently. They're teaching in the Houston area, but Mike plans to resume summer school graduate work at WT in June.

**Debbie Randolph Wedel** (90 BMMB) is accounting/bookkeeper at C&D Music in Amarillo while husband Matt does M.S., chemistry work at WT. Bouncing baby boy Joshua Bryan delights them both. They'll be even more delighted when Matt gets security clearance to work at Pantex.

**Shelly Henry** (91 BMMB) is completing MM coursework, with education emphasis, at Eastern in Portales, NM. Come August 1, she and Bobby Flake will marry and live in Oklahoma City.

**Darcy Walker** (91 BME) teaches at Hill Country JH, which feeds Westlake HS in Austin.

### In Memoriam

**Roxie Ann Briscoe** (18 BS) died recently in Oklahoma City. A 1915 graduate of Amarillo High School, she attended WT Normal School fall 1915 through summer of 1918, then taught in area elementary schools for many years, doing additional academic work in the 50s. In recent years Roxie lived with her son James in San Angelo.

### Stephen Morscheck

Dr. Stephen Morscheck, Assistant Professor of Voice, continues to be busy with singing engagements throughout Texas and in the rest of the nation. In March he sang the lead role in the Amarillo Opera, Inc., production of *Don Pasquale*. He also gave a recital and master class at the University of Texas at El Paso, sponsored by the local NATS Chapter. Other upcoming performances include Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Cayuga, New York, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Midland-Odessa Symphony, and *Elijah* again with Park Hill United Methodist Church in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Morscheck and Mr. James Gardner team up for recitals this summer and fall, including a recital at the NATS National Convention in Boston, the opening recital for Richard Miller's Pedagogy Seminar at Oberlin Conservatory, and in November, a recital in Oklahoma City as part of the Chopin Society Music Series.

### Band News

It's been a busy and fruitful spring for the bands. The Symphonic Band made its eighth appearance at TMEA where we were thrilled to see many of our exes in the audience. On April 4 we had the second WTSU Band Clinic at which we hosted four fine high school bands: Borger High School, Roger Edwards, director; Denton High School, Don Hanna, director; Midland Lee High School, Randy Storie, director; and Pampa High School, Charles Johnson, director. Guest clinician and conductor for the event was Dr. Ralph Laycock, Director of Bands Emeritus of Brigham Young University. The day was climaxed with a concert featuring each of the four visiting bands and the WT Symphonic Band.

Don Lefevre is back in the saddle this year after a year off to work on his doctorate. His work with the Concert Band is outstanding, as always. As saxophone soloist with the Symphonic Band at TMEA, he brought the audience to its feet in an enthusiastic and prolonged ovation.

### Orchestra News

The orchestra began the semester with the annual Concerto Concert. Featured soloists this year were Veronika Roskopf, junior violist from El Paso; Todd Allan, senior from Abilene, double bass; Heather Turk, sophomore from Canyon, piccolo; Amy Browning, freshman from Roswell, flute; Paul Vela, senior from Kingsville, tuba; and Cynthia Barlow, senior from Kingsville, marimba. The rest of the semester was taken up with the spring concert and playing the opera.

At this point, recruitment is looking good for next year. As word gets around the state that WT has the best string faculty anywhere, we find more and more talented students looking in this direction. With teachers and players the stature of the Harrington Quartet and bassist David Murray, they couldn't do better!

### Opera Workshop

The Opera Workshop has had a very busy year, working more closely than ever with the theatre faculty and the Branding Iron Theatre. A new major in Music Theatre has received official approval from Austin, providing an interdisciplinary course in music, theatre, and dance. As a result, more musical productions will be presented each season than in the past.

The season began with an extended run of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*, featuring music therapy junior and former professional actress Shelley St. Clair in the title role. The production drew rave reviews and was hailed as the most ambitious production ever attempted in the Branding Iron Theatre.

To celebrate the Christmas season, the workshop teamed up with the choirs and the orchestra to present Menotti's beloved Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

The spring semester began with four sell-out performances of Dan Groggin's smash-hit comedy, *Nonsense*. The convent capers proved so popular on campus and in the community that the production was held over for four additional performances, which also sold out.

All the students in the workshop got to try their hand at a major role in the spring semester Opera Scene Recital in March. Scenes from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Abduction from the Seraglio*, *La Bohème*, and *Dialogues of the Carmelites* featured fourteen students.

The season closed on a briny note with Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Students and production staff alike pulled out all the stops to provide a delightful end to the Opera Workshop's activities.

Plans for next season include a fall production of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* and a spring production of Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*. Opera and musical theatre continue to thrive at WT.



### 1992 MUSIC THERAPY CLUB

Lounging: Laura Skoglund; First row, left to right: Lee Ann Jones, Shelley St. Clair, Yuko Yazawa, Cathy Thompson; Second row: Kristin Phillips, Jennifer Prensner, Resa Joy, Roger Lomas, Susan Jackson, Lara Flanders, Dendee Hutcherson; Back rows: T.C. Reid, Rebecca Hayes, Trisha Kominczak, James Clements, Amanda Brower, Carolyn Brown, Diane Stricker, and Martha Estes (RMT).

### Music Therapy

The music therapy division has been extremely active with students serving as student officers-elect of the Southwest Region Students Association. Lara Flanders has served as vice president (1991-92) and Amanda Brower will serve as president (1992-93).

The student music therapy group hosted a campus-wide music therapy awareness week. During the week they had different activities each night, lead by the students, in which other individuals could participate. This was a success and something that could continue in order to further knowledge of the music therapy division on our campus and in our community.

Students participated in the Southwest Regional Music Therapy Conference with great pride and professionalism. They worked at the registration table, were presiders for the sessions and closed the conference with their award-winning signed song. Additional awards for the WT students were the scholarship award (\$250) from the Southwest Region and one of the two internship scholarships was won by Sara Newcomb. An article by Martha Estes, "Music Therapy: Adjunct to Healing," was published in the winter 1992 edition of *Panhandle Health*, a regional health-oriented publication. A second article is due in May for the same publication. We are pleased with the request for the articles and the positive response from the medical community.

Martha Estes has begun an "outstanding professional/former student" award. The presentation of this award will be a biennial event, with a former student receiving recognition every two years. We have the support of WT president Dr. Barry Thompson in this endeavor. We have sent names of all former students and a letter requesting nominations to a random sample of former students. The award presentation will also mark the beginning of the music therapy scholarship fund. We will appreciate your support and will inform everyone when the recipient has been determined. The impetus for this event was the senate hearing on gerontology that has put music therapy in the national spotlight!

The southwest Regional Conference, held at the Harvey Hotel in Amarillo, was organized by the Panhandle Music Therapists, Inc. It was a great success. *Kudos* to the Amarillo music therapists!

### Amarillo Opera, Inc.

Mila Beth Gibson's production company, Amarillo Opera, is included in the forthcoming edition of *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*, affirming professional levels of performance, repertory, and community support. The WTSU Department of Music and Dance has been instrumental in training as well as supplying most of its personnel.

### Lone Star Ballet

Neil Hess and the Lone Star Ballet hosted the 30th annual Southwestern Regional Ballet Association's Festival '92 in April. Companies participating in the three-day event were Abilene Ballet Theatre, Ballet Arkansas, Beaumont Ballet Theatre, Clear Lake Metropolitan Ballet, Corpus Christi Ballet, Denton Civic Ballet, San Antonio Dance Theatre, Western Oklahoma Ballet Theatre, City Ballet of Houston, Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre, Louisiana Dance Theatre, Dallas Metropolitan Ballet, Twin City Ballet, Wichita Falls Ballet Theatre, Allegro Ballet of Houston, Lake Charles Ballet, and of course our very own Lone Star Ballet.

## Quartet Tunes Up for International Competition

The Harrington String Quartet has been selected to participate in the Banff International String Quartet Competition.

Banff, Canada, is a winter sportsman's wonderland and a summer vacationer's paradise. And the best time to visit the Canadian Rockies, according to members of the quartet, is every fourth spring for the international string quartet competition.

The Harrington String Quartet's "vacation dreams" began with an audio tape, one of more than 70 submitted to an international panel of judges. Ten quartets were selected to make the trip to Banff—five from the United States and one each from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland.

The quartet is working on six pieces, two contemporary, two classical, and two romantic, of their own choosing in preparation for the competition. In addition, a one-movement piece, written especially for the contest, was given to each of the quartets one month prior to April 19, the first day of competition.

Performances will continue daily at the Banff Center for all 10 of the quartets through Wednesday, April 22. An international panel of judges will then cut the field to five and will have three more days of judging before announcing the winner on Saturday, April 25.

The winning quartet will receive a \$20,000 cash prize, a recital tour of Canada, a one-year residency to study and perform at the Banff Center, and four bows commissioned from a leading Canadian archetier.

"This is one of the biggest and best string quartet competitions in the world," Dawn Harms, first violin for the quartet, said. "This could mean incredible exposure for the quartet and a great deal of recognition for West Texas State University and the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra."

Update: The quartet survived the first round cuts, but was eliminated at the second round on Friday evening. Although they did not win the competition, they were pleased with their performance and thought it was a worthwhile experience.

## Meadows Guest Artists

This academic year is distinguished by the first Meadows Guest Artist Series. The Meadows Foundation has underwritten music and theater events at WTSU for some years including guest recitals, but this year marks the first of a continuing organized series. Guest artists who appeared on campus were Priscilla Winslow presenting workshops in the Feldenkrais Method, guitarist Jesus Silva, pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, prize winner in the last Van Cliburn competition, Yün, woodwinds and piano, the Virtuosi Quintet, woodwinds with WTSU alumnus Brad Garner, and mezzo-soprano Julie Simpson, NATS singer of the year.

In addition to the recitals most guest artists presented a master class on the Masters Series which also included master classes by Amarillo Symphony soloists. Plans are underway for next year's series hopefully to include a WTSU alumna.

### Band Reunion

There will be a band reunion during homecoming on Saturday, October 3, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the band hall. The event will be hosted by KΚΨ Alpha Psi and TΒΞ Xi chapters. For more information, contact Cynthia Barlow, c/o Tau Beta Sigma, WTSU Department of Music and Dance or through the WTSU Alumni Association.

# RITORNELLO

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