

# RITORNELLO

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



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Spring 1995

### *Band Clinic Features John Paynter*

The Fifth Annual WTAMU Band Clinic was held on Saturday, April 1, 1995. Dr. John Paynter, Director of Bands at Chicago's Northwestern University was this year's guest clinician/conductor.

Dr. Paynter is one of the most renowned band conductors in America. He is president of the Mid-West National Band and Orchestra Clinic, past-president of the American Bandmasters Association, and co-founder, past president, and honorary life president of the National Band Association. He is also recognized as a leader in the community band movement having served as conductor of the Northshore Concert Band since 1956. Previous guest clinicians have been Dr. Harry Begian (1991 and 1993), Dr. Ralph Laycock (1992), and Dr. Robert Reynolds (1994).

Each year four outstanding high school bands are invited to participate in the Clinic. For

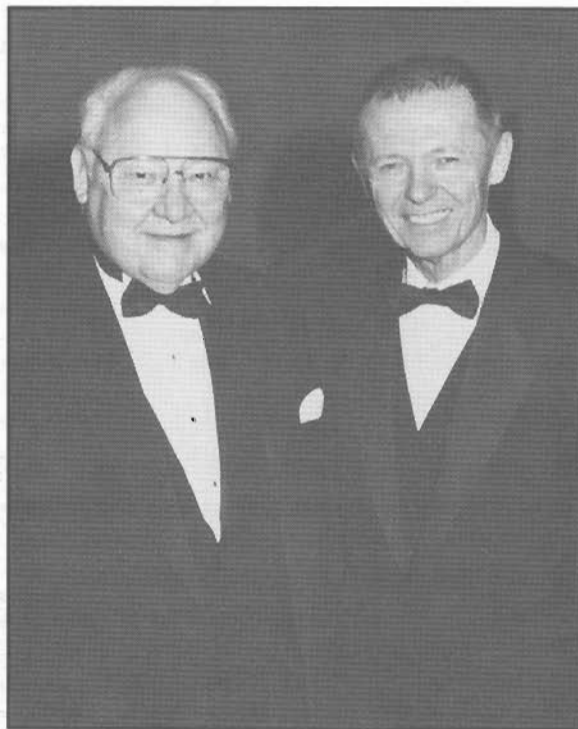
1995 the bands were Amarillo High School (Roger Edwards, Director), Coronado High School of Lubbock (Anthony Gibson, Director), Houston School for Performing & Visual Arts (Nathan Carter, Director), and Randall High School (Ken Carriere, Director). Other bands over the five-year history of the clinic have included Abilene/Cooper, Borger, Canyon, Clovis, The Colony, Dumas, Hereford,

Midland, Midland/Lee, Odessa, Odessa/Permian, and Pampa.

An important feature of the day's events is an opportunity for students in each band to work for an hour with WTAMU faculty who are specialists for a particular instrument. For example, the flutes in each of the above named bands received a one-hour master class from Sally Turk, WT flute teacher. Each clarinet section worked with

Douglas Storey, oboes with Robert Krause, bassoons with Tina Carpenter, saxophones with Donald Lefevre, trumpets with David Ritter, horns with Ron Lemon, trombones with Joseph Cox, and percussion with Susan Martin. Students and directors alike have praised this opportunity as "One of the most beneficial aspects of the clinic."

The level of music performance at these clinics has been remarkable. Each year the day peaks with a concert featuring the four participating bands and the WT Symphonic Band. The 1995 concert closed with an outstanding performance of *Beatrice et Benedict Overture* with John Paynter conducting. Those who were present will long remember it.



**Dr. John Paynter and Dr. Gary Garner**

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Linda Adams Fox** (BME '63, MAcd '66) moved in 1988 to Vero Beach, FL with husband Jim after he retired from the Metropolitan Opera. She is now artistic director for the Vero Beach Opera Guild and works with the Treasure Coast Opera Society. Son Dennis studies opera at the Cincinnati Conservatory. She has done many recitals and concerts in the Florida/ Southeast area and loves living there - EXCEPT for the hurricanes.

**Linda Ridlehuber Kinnett** (BME '68) teaches 4th grade now, although she keeps up with music by singing in two choirs in Round Rock.

**Janice Perkins Easterday** (BME '70) received Classified Employee of the Year for 1994 at Amarillo College where she has been an administrative assistant in the Fine Arts Division since 1981.

**Susan Brantley Milligan** (BME '71) is in her 14th year of teaching instrumental music (orchestra) for the Princeton City Schools, a suburban district in northwest Cincinnati. She also teaches International Baccalaureate Music to juniors and seniors at Princeton HS. In addition she is the associate conductor of the Cincinnati Junior Strings, a youth orchestra for 8-14 year olds of which Susan was a founder 16 years ago. Cincinnati Junior Strings will tour Australia this coming summer. Son Sean is a junior at the University of Texas and

daughter Julie is a freshman at Princeton HS.

**David** (BME '70, MA '72) and **Mary Jo** (BS elem ed '69) **Fennell** still reside in San Angelo where David is Assistant Professor of Music at Angelo State (his 20th year!) teaching clarinet and saxophone studio and strings, woodwinds and band as well as computer classes for music majors. Mary Jo teaches first grade and plays in the handbell choir at church. Son Chris is a student at Angelo State and plays clarinet in the band.

**Steven Meyer** (BME '74, MA '77) changed jobs this year - after 16 years at Travis MS in Amarillo, he is now Assistant Band Director and general music teacher in Bushland (just west of Amarillo). He has also been selling real estate for 3 years in his spare time.

**Lorraine Baldwin Kubala** (BME '77) toured Europe during the summer of '94 as a conductor of the U.S. Collegiate Wind Band - conducted in New York, London, Paris, and Innsbruck among others. She plays her euphonium in four different musical groups, which, in her words, "is pretty amazing for a relatively useless euphonium!" She's traveling extensively in her spare time.

**Jan Zook Davis** (BM '81) still lives in Sacramento, CA with husband Tracy and children Spencer and Shelby. She teaches band for Folsom-Cordova.

**David Wimberly, MD** (BM '81) enjoys practicing

anesthesiology in Clear Lake, TX. He and wife, Kelli, are the proud parents of identical twin girls born October 28, 1994 - Claire Elyse and Hannah Nicole. He noted on his return form "Still not practicing my sax!"

**Johnny Glover** (BM '85) and wife, Kim, live in Belton, MO outside of Kansas City where he is the Minister of Music and Youth at South Haven Baptist Church. As the Music Editor for Christian Computing Magazine, he writes a monthly column on the use of computers and MIDI technology in music ministry. He also sings with the Missouri Music Men. And to answer the #1 asked question "Kim and I still have no children."

**Sherilyn Robinson** (BMTh '85) is back in Canyon as husband Clay is teaching Plant Sciences courses at WTAMU. She's enjoying her time staying home with children, Jesse-7, Josiah-3, and Janae-1.

**Carol Elizabeth McClintock Dodds** (BMTh '86) is on leave from her music therapist position at Sonoma Development Center awaiting the New Year's Day birth of her first child Travis Austin. Although she and husband Daniel live in Santa Rosa, CA they hope to return to Texas in the next few years.

**Louellen Meyer** (BME '89, MA '90) is "happy, happy" in San Angelo where she lives with husband and 2 children. She is very

involved in church music, organ, piano, and children's choir and also teaches private piano and does some accompanying.

**Theresa Wilhelm Mullen** (BME '90) got married November 26, 1994 to Michael Mullen. They've made their home in the "metropolis" of Labyrinth, TX where both teach. They honeymooned in London at the end of December.

**Melvin Harrison** (BMMB '92) now lives in Fort Worth where he attends Texas Christian University working toward a graduate degree in violin performance.

**Kristen Scheirman** (BME '92) is percussion instructor for the Van Buren, AR school district which includes a middle school, 2 junior highs and a high school. She is also the percussion instructor at Westark Community College in Fort Smith.

## CHOIR NEWS

Greetings from the choral music department. This year is disappearing in a hurry. The Fall semester was eventful, with successful Fall and Christmas concerts, a sold out Madrigal Dinner, and a delightful evening with Basso Samuel Ramey and the Amarillo Symphony. This spring the Chorale is touring the eastern side of New Mexico, performing in high schools in Clovis, Portales, Roswell, and Hobbs. Tour dates are March 29-31. We hope to recruit, or at least open some doors at WTAMU to those talented New Mexican choral singers. New Mexico students with a 3.0 grade point and a \$200 scholarship offer from us also

get an out-of-state tuition waiver from the state of Texas. Their education at WT would be less expensive for them than an in-state education at home.

The Madrigal Dinner has been invited to perform at Pampa for the Fine Arts Association on April 22. We will bundle up the entire project and head that way for another evening of feasting, singing, and dancing for the general merriment of the Pampa folks (should be a lot of fun).

The last year of our Meadows grant for choral music is this year; a sad time indeed. We have really enjoyed having those funds and the added opportunities that they have produced. With this year's grant, we are performing on the second day of May two short choral-orchestral pieces: Bach's Cantata No. 65 (*All They From Saba Shall Come*) for chorus, tenor, and bass soloists. The solos will be sung by Charles Nelson, bass and artist-in-residence at Abilene Christian University in Abilene. The tenor will be sung by Dr. Randall Black, artist-in-residence at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. Both of these gentlemen are wonderful singers and we look forward to spending several days with them on our campus. Both of these men will also present master classes for our singers. The other work on the program will be the Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, featuring sixteen soloists, chorus, and orchestra. Outstanding singers from our area will be asked to sing, in addition to Nelson, Black, and our WT voice faculty. Come and join us, it should be a glorious occasion.

Alumni, if you know of talented singers in your area, encourage them to consider WTAMU's vocal music department. Your enthusiasm and backing could make a real difference to our music program. We appreciate your support, and see you at the concert!

## DANCE

The Department of Dance has had a busy and productive Spring semester. Immediately after the Christmas break, a choreographer named Jonathan Riesling from the Alvin Ailey Dance company from New York was on campus teaching master classes and choreographing a concert piece called "tribe" for the WTAMU appearance at the American College Dance Festival in San Marcos, Texas in March.

Lisa Hess-Jones came one day after Mr. Riesling departed, to set a classical piece to Respighi music for the same festival. Earlier in the year, Alexia Hess came to choreograph a Broadway style work to music by Tommy Dorsey, which will give an added variety to the performances at the College Festival.

The dancers at WTAMU received some good news from the Governor's office in Austin. The ensemble group has been invited to perform under the auspices of the governor for a special Gala, celebrating the rededication of the Texas State Capital Building. This event will take place April 21-22.

Early in February, the dancers from WTAMU performed at a festival in Dallas along with twenty-two dance companies from the Southwest.

Another major of the dance department has been working with student Leslie Hethcox on his first choreographic endeavor. Leslie's creation is to music by Sibelius and is in two movements. Mr. Hess, director of the Dance Department, has selected this piece for performance in San Marcos as a student work. Another highlight for the WTAMU dancers was an appearance at Valley School near Turkey, Texas. This concert brought a large audience from small towns in the area and served as a goodwill tour for WTAMU.

Dancers from West Texas A&M University and from the Lone Star Ballet recently performed in the "Dances at a Gathering" Festival in Dallas under the auspices of the Chamberlain Ballet of Plano. The festival took place on Saturday, February 11th with participants from dance companies throughout Texas and Arkansas.

Dancers from Canyon premiered two dance works at the festival event. One concert piece was "Respighi Variations" with music by Respighi and choreographed by Lisa Hess-Jones, formerly of the Lone Star Ballet, New York City Ballet, and now associated with the Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet. The second concert piece performed by the WTAMU and Lone Star Ballet dancers was "Sing, Sing, Sing" to music by Tommy Dorsey and choreographed by Alexia Hess, also a former Lone Star Ballet dancer, now performing on Broadway in New York City.

Dancers attending the two day event were: Tag Alberding, Jennifer Arellano, Desiree Arterburn, Barry Brown, Crystal Campbell,

Cynthia Hale, Leslie Hethcox, Synamon Jones, Melissa Keller, Sharla Koch, Dave Miller, Matt Morrison, Janice Nash, Went Odom, Indiana Sifuentes, David Snow, Betsy Tinajero, Sonja Vanderslice, Jerry Vizena, Derik Webb, and Meredith Wiesehan.

Lisa Hess returned to Amarillo on February 24th to choreograph a ballet for the Lone Star Ballet junior company assisted by WTAMU dance ensemble members. Dancers for this newly choreographed work include: Lauren Hamrick, Amber Avara, Dana Williams, Carey Brandt, Amberlee Anderson, Amanda Liles, Tag Alberding, and Barry Brown.

## MUSIC THERAPY

Music therapy students are preparing for their annual contribution to SHOWCASE. This year it's "Circle of Life" from The Lion King; in sign language (as usual). We have a group of 50 students and are quite busy. We're excited that the Southwestern Regional Conference is in Dallas this year. Many of us are going to be there.

The list of professional Music Therapists in the area continues to grow. We are the "PANHANDLE MUSIC THERAPISTS." There are now 18 members in the professional group. Two are interns (yes - The Pavilion has a newly approved internship). It's AMAZING to be a part of this wonderful field that just keeps growing!

The professional group meets once a month and would like to get in touch with WT music therapists so we can share your news. We're glad to have Talara

Hammons back - working on her master's in counseling.

Martha Estes is National Chairman of the Peer Review Committee. NAMT is interested in articles about music therapy that appear in newspapers. Should you see such an article, please send it on to Martha. The National Office wants to keep a file on this information. We hope to see many of you in Dallas! Gloria Pleyer McDaniel is the second WT graduate to be president of the Southwest region. Steve Wilder preceded her.

## ORCHESTRA

At this writing the orchestra has just finished their annual Concerto Concert. It featured five outstanding soloists, chosen by competitive audition. They are: Amy Browning, flute, who played a flute transcription of the Khachaturian Violin Concerto; Lance Sanford, flute, who played the Vivaldi Concerto I; Mike Sheffield, marimba, who played two movements of the Ney Rosauro Concerto; Geoffrey Elsner, who played the last movement of the Mayazumi Xylophone Concerto; and Mark Alewine, who played the Husa Elegie et Rondeau for alto saxophone. The orchestra's final concert of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 at 8:00 p.m.

## MUSICAL THEATRE

The WTAMU music department, along with our friends in the theatre department, joined the circus business this spring. Travelers in the hallway of the Fine Arts Building had their heads turned when they

saw Drs. Forrest and Hansen through their open studio doors--juggling! The annual musical, Barnum, has transformed the Branding Iron Theatre into a Big Top teeming with clowns, acrobats, aerialists, and jugglers. No efforts were spared to bring Joice Heth, the oldest woman alive, Tom Thumb, the world's shortest man, and Jumbo, the largest elephant in captivity, to the stage. The musical is a biographical panorama of America's greatest showman, Phineas Taylor Barnum. Theatre-goers were greeted in the lobby by a circus barker and a tour of the Hall of Wonders, containing artifacts from Barnum's illustrious career. Once inside the theatre, Barnum himself led the audience on a tour of his life, beginning with Joice Heth and culminating with his fateful decision to join James Bailey to create "The Greatest Show on Earth!"

#### **SYMPHONIC BAND**

The band had a highly successful tour to central Texas in late February, highlighted by performances at the University of Texas and at Texas A&M. Other stops included Snyder High School, where alum Kirk Woolery is middle school director; Leander High School, where alum Dennis Hopkins is director; Round Rock High School; Brenham high School, where alum Gary Doherty is director; and Texas A&M Consolidated High School, where alum Anthony Gonzalez is assistant director.

Kappa Kappa Psi is producing a CD of the tour music, which should be available by mid-May. The cost is \$12.00 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling. Orders

may be placed by sending a check to : Kappa Kappa Psi, Music Dep't., WTAMU, Canyon, TX 79016.

The next big item on the agenda is the fourth annual Band Clinic. The guest clinician this year is Mr. John Paynter, director of bands at Northwestern University.

#### **DON BAIRD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Recently, Jim Hutson, band chairman for Region I, presented a check in the amount of \$3,300 for the Don Baird Memorial Scholarship fund to Harry Haines, WT music department head. Region I donates the gate receipts from their all-region band concerts to this fund which provides scholarships for Region I band students to attend WTAMU.

By vote of the directors, 50% will go for scholarships for students for the fall of 1995. The remaining 50% will go into an endowment to provide a permanent source of support for these scholarships

which honor the memory of Don Baird. This year's gift of \$1,650 brings the total endowment to \$4,842.14. The endowment has earned \$738.36 which combined with this year's gift will make available a total of \$2,378.36 for Don Baird scholarships for the coming year.

Mr. Baird was the low brass instructor at WT and the UIL Executive Secretary for Region I at the time of his death in 1979. He taught at the university for 16 years beginning in 1963. Those of us who knew Don Baird are especially pleased to see this tribute to his memory grow and help band students from Region I.

#### **SAX QUARTET WINS STUDENT CONTEST**

The winner in the Showcase Competition on March 3, 1995 was the *Paragon Saxophone Quartet*.

The quartet consists of music majors:  
Soprano Saxophone:  
Mark Alewine; Graduate student from Altus, Oklahoma



**Jim Hutson, band chairman for Region I, presents a check for Baird Scholarships to Harry Haines, WT Music Department Head.**

Alto Saxophone:  
Thomas Holmes; Junior  
Music Education major from  
Miles City, Montana  
Tenor Saxophone:  
Patrick Kitchell; Senior  
Music Education major from  
Ponca City, Oklahoma  
Baritone Saxophone:  
Gary Willis, Graduate Student  
from Spring, Texas

The quartet will also be featured at the "SHOWCASE OF MUSIC" to be held at the Amarillo Civic Center on Friday, April 7, 1995 at 8:00 p.m.

The quartet competed in the student ensemble competition against seven groups and won a \$300 scholarship for the group.

The quartet won the competition with the

selection "Thunder and Blazes" Circus March by Jerry Fucik, arranged for saxophone quartet by Bill Holcome.

#### RETURN ENGAGEMENTS

In 1984 WTAMU alumnus David Stockton came back to conduct the Opera Workshop's production of *Così fan tutte*. He is back again to conduct the Amarillo Opera's production of *La Traviata* in one performance at the Amarillo Civic Center. David's career has embraced numerous locales from his early days in Boston as conductor of the Savoyards at Boston University and later the Boston Concert Opera

Orchestra, which he founded, to concerts in Wiesbaden and Leipsig, Germany. Another return engagement is WTAMU alumna Diane Syrcle who sang the role of Violetta in *La Traviata*.

Past Meadows Guest Artist Ann Saslav is returning to play the Mendelssohn Piano Trio with members of the Harrington String Quartet. While here she will present a master class with WT piano majors. Ms. Saslav will be remembered for the Meadows residency she presented with her violinist husband Isador. While on campus they were heard in recital, master classes, and lectures.

#### 22 SECONDS ON CBS

WTAMU alumna Donna Horne Ham teaches piano in Lubbock and in desperation for repertoire suitable for her group piano class arranged the theme music "Oh! What a Beautiful Morning," for the group to play. On Tuesday morning, April 11, they were featured on the CBS morning news program.



The Paragon Saxophone Quartet

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