Choirs Travel West this Spring

The Choirs of Pittsburg State are westward bound this semester, preparing for a variety of off-campus performances.

KMEA, February

The PSU choral program will be represented at the KMEA In-Service Workshop in Wichita again this year, as the Chorale has been invited to perform on Friday, February 22. The concert will take place at 2:45 pm in the Century II Concert MIT Little Theatre. While the University Choir has appeared at this workshop on a number of previous occasions, this is the first time that the smaller ensemble has auditioned for the privilege of performing at the convention.

California Tour

This year’s Spring Tour will take the choirs to Southern California. The trip, which will take place during March 14–21, will include performances in a variety of venues, including Whittier College, First United Methodist Church of Pasadena, and several high schools and/or community colleges in the region. The centerpiece of the tour will be a special performance for the annual gathering of the Southern California Chapter of the PSU Alumni Association. The event will take place at the Embassy Suites of Anaheim on Saturday, March 16. For further information about this event, contact Calvin Farmer, president of the chapter, at 714/549-1762.

The tour will also afford students an opportunity to visit many of the famous attractions in and around Los Angeles, Pasadena, Anaheim, and San Diego. Biennial tours over the past decade have taken the PSU Choirs to a variety of interesting places, including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Cincinnati, Louisville, Washington, New York, and Boston. The students who have elected to participate in the upcoming tour have been engaged in a number of fundraising activities to support the trip, and more are planned for the spring semester.

For further information about the tour, contact Dr. Susan Marchant, Director of Choral Activities, at 620/235-4476 or via e-mail at smarchant@pittstate.edu.

Music Scholarship Audition Days

on the PSU Campus

Saturday, January 19
Monday, February 18
Tuesday, March 12

To make a reservation for an audition, contact the PSU Department of Music:
620/235-4466 music@pittstate.edu

Visit the PSU Department of Music Home Page for Up-to-Date Information concerning Concerts, Workshops, Auditions, and Faculty Biographies at http://www.pittstate.edu/music

PSU Opera Productions

Spring, 2002

The Tender Land, a poignant account of a young woman’s coming of age in America’s heartland, is being celebrated with two performances, February 1 and 3, at Memorial Auditorium, Pittsburg. The performance is under the direction of Prof. Kathryn Parke. Joining the singers in this performance will be the Southeast Kansas Symphony, under the direction of Prof. Stella Hastings. Tickets are available through the PSU Ticket Office and at the door.

Later in the spring, the Opera Workshop will present a one-act opera, Something New for the Zoo, by American composer Lee Hoiby. This performance is set for April 16 and will take place in McCray Recital Hall.

For further information about either of these productions, contact Prof. Parke at 620/235-4464 or via e-mail at kparke@pittstate.edu.
Greetings from the Chair

In the Department of Music, the 2002 spring semester began before university classes started. The second annual High School Honors Orchestra met for a weekend of high level, challenging music-making. This exciting project was made possible through the generosity of Commerce Bank in 2001, and this year a Pritchett Grant funded the weekend. Hard-working Department of Music faculty and high school orchestra instructors completed the team.

We believe that this is an example of the Department of Music at its best-reaching out to the community, bringing the best possible musical experiences to students, even before they become university students. As a faculty, we have committed ourselves to the goal of supporting and improving music education in the region, and the Honors Orchestra is but one approach to this goal. Others include the establishment of the Band Directors’ Coalition, the massed bands at Homecoming, and regular “clinical” visits to choir rooms in the area by faculty members.

While we are eager to cultivate the new generation of high school musicians, we continue to lead our own students in terrific learning experiences-professional auditions, tours, master classes, and of course, our regular classes!

You will be proud to see how engaged and productive we are. We invite you visit us at any time—come to a concert or a faculty recital, attend a concert on the Choir’s spring tour, bring your students for a tour, participate in a music festival at PSU. Come and meet our new faculty, each one of whom is making wonderful contributions to the work of the department, or visit “old” friends. We’ll be delighted to see you.

With the very best and warmest wishes to you and yours in the new year,

I remain

Sincerely yours,

Anne Patterson

New Faculty Appointments

Steven Elisha has been appointed to the PSU music faculty as a part-time instructor of cello and double bass, following the retirement of Dr. Carolann Martin. He also serves as principal cellist of the Southeast Kansas Symphony. An active performer in the Kansas City area in recent years, Prof. Elisha earned the BM degree at Indiana University as a student of Janos Starker and the MM degree at Yale University as a student of Aldo Parisot.

Jessie Wright Martin has been appointed to the PSU music faculty as an instructor in the areas of applied voice and vocal pedagogy, following the resignation of Dr. Loraine Sims. Ms. Martin is currently a doctoral candidate at Louisiana State University. She holds the Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University and the Bachelor of Music degree from The Florida State University. She has enjoyed great success singing on both the lyric and concert stages. A frequent performer of twentieth-century music, Ms. Martin has twice performed George Crumb’s Madrigals, Book III, and appeared as mezzo-soprano soloist in the world premiere of Dinos Constantinides’ Voices of the Milleniums. She has appeared with the Baton Rouge Symphony, the Louisiana Sinfonietta, Pensacola Opera, and the Ohio Light Opera, where, in addition to performing, she also served as an administrator. Ms. Martin recently collaborated with Dr. James Stuart on an English translation of the operetta Der Zigeunerprimas by Emmerich Kálmán. A winner of numerous awards and competitions including those sponsored by the Rose Palmieri-Tenser Mobile Opera Competition, Baton Rouge Opera Guild, Baton Rouge Rotary Club, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Ms. Martin can be heard on recordings of several operettas on the Newport Classic and Albany Record labels.

- Thank You -

A special word of thanks is extended to those friends and alumni who have responded to the Music Fund Drive. The need is great, and your support is very much appreciated.

Faculty Briefs...

Susan Marchant, professor, was the featured artist at an event sponsored by Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Bartlesville, OK, on October 27. Included in the activities were a solo recital and a master class for Bartlesville area organists on matters of registration, articulation, and various aspects of accompanying.

Kathryn Parke, instructor, has entered into an association with the Phoenix Bach Choir as program annotator for their concert series. She continues in a similar capacity with the Kansas City Chorale.

Eric Sheffler, lecturer, has accepted a position as percussionist with the United States Army Band at West Point.

Loraine Sims departs for Louisiana

Dr. Loraine Sims, assistant professor and member of the PSU music faculty since 1996, has accepted a position at her alma mater, Louisiana State University, where her teaching responsibilities will include applied voice and vocal pedagogy. The Department extends its best wishes to Dr. Sims as she enters this new stage of her career.

Second Annual High School Honors Orchestra

The second annual High School Honor Orchestra took place on the PSU campus during the weekend of January 11-12. Approximately 40 string students from Missouri and Kansas attended rehearsals and presented a concert on January 12 in McRae Recital Hall.

Robert Debbaut was the guest conductor for the event. Dr. Debbaut served as Music Director of the University of Utah’s Orchestras from 1990-1998, garnering two awards from ASCAP for programming and three from Down Beat Magazine for “best classical orchestral performance.” He has been a guest conductor with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, Salt Lake City Symphony, San Juan Symphony, the National Symphonies of El Salvador and Guatemala, and the Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra.

The Pritchett Trust provided major funding for this event, which was coordinated by Prof. Carol Hoyt of the PSU faculty.
Calendar of Events

January
12 High School Honor Orchestra, all day
15 Enrollment
16 Classes begin
19 Scholarship Audition Day
24 Faculty Recital, James Hall, flute, 7:30 pm
27 Fisk Organ Recital Series:
Susan Marchant, organ, 3:00 pm

February
1 * Opera Production: *The Tender Land*, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
3 * Opera Production: *The Tender Land*, Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 pm
8 * Solo & Chamber Music Series:
   Nancy Ambrose King, oboe, 7:30 pm
12 Senior Recital, Will Demings, tuba, 7:30 pm
15 Fisk Organ Recital Series:
   David Kuehn, trumpet, with Susan Marchant, organ, 7:30 pm
18 Scholarship Audition Day
19 University Bands, Memorial Auditorium 7:30 pm

March
1 Jazz Festival, Memorial Auditorium, all day, and Jazz Festival Concert,
   featuring the Count Basie Orchestra
3 Southeast Kansas Symphony,
   * Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 pm
4 Phi Mu Alpha, Concert of
   American Music, 7:30 pm
9 Kansas Federated Music Clubs
   Junior Festival, all day
10 University Choirs, 3:00 pm
11 Faculty Recital, Jessi Martin,
   mezzo soprano, 7:30 pm
12 Solo & Chamber Music Series:
   * Yuri Rozum, piano, 7:30 pm
12 Scholarship Audition Day

April
2 Junior Recital, Ni Mei and Xiaoguo Zhu, violin, 7:30 pm
5 Solo & Chamber Music Series:
   * Vocal Arts Quartet, 7:30 pm
6 Faculty Chamber Music Recital,
   Elisha, Edmund, Carlson Trio, 7:30 pm
8 Waddill Competition Winners
   Concert, 7:30 pm
9 Graduate Recital, Chia-Mei Yang,
   mezzo soprano, 7:30 pm
11 Senior Recital, Angela Anderson,
   flute, 7:30 pm
12 Junior Recital, Scott Sternberger,
   piano, 7:30 pm
13 Regional Solo & Ensemble
   Contest, all day
14 Southeast Kansas Symphony,
   Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 pm
16 * Opera Production:
   *Something New for the Zoo*, 7:30 pm
18 State Large Ensemble Festival, all day
20 Mid-America Music Festival, all day
21 Suzuki String Program, 3:00 pm
22 Senior Recital, Amanda Christen,
   clarinet, 7:30 pm
23 Senior Recital, Jeremiah Nichol,
   trombone, 7:30 pm
25 Graduate Recital, Camay Liao,
   piano, 7:30 pm
27 Kansas Federated Music Clubs,
   Superiors Festival, all day
28 Choral/Orchestral Concert:
   *Psalmfest*, First United Methodist
   * Church, 3:00 pm
29 Junior Recital, Sean Parks, tenor, 7:30 pm
30 University Bands, Memorial
   Auditorium, 7:30 pm

May
2 Four-State Band Festival,
   Memorial Auditorium, all day
2 Four-State Band Concert,
   Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
4 KMTA Auditions, all day
7 Jazz Ensemble, Memorial
   Auditorium, 7:30 pm
17-18 Commencement

* Tickets required. For further information, contact the PSU Department of Music (620/235-4466).

Please consult local news media for changes and/or updates to the above information and for additional calendar events.

Pittsburgh Native
Beverly Benso Returns
for Concert Appearance

This year’s PSU Solo and Chamber Music Series will conclude with a performance by the Vocal Arts Quartet, artists in residence at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. Beverly Benso, no stranger to audiences in her hometown of Pittsburgh, is the alto in the quartet and is joined by colleagues Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano; Samuel Gordon, tenor; and Robert Kennedy, bass. In addition to its 16-year association with the National Gallery, the ensemble has performed throughout the United States and Europe, and has made several critically-acclaimed recordings for Koch International, the most recent being Gentle Annie, songs of Charles Ives and Stephen Foster.

The concert is set for Friday, April 5, at 7:30 pm in McCray Recital Hall. Tickets are available in advance through the PSU Ticket Office or at the door the evening of the performance.

Aaron Copland's
The Tender Land
February 1 & 3, 2002
Memorial Auditorium
Fisk Opus 106
Organ News


*Traditions* is the debut recording of the Fisk Opus 106 organ at Pittsburg State. On the Pro Organo label (catalog number CD 7033), it is available through online commercial outlets such as Tower Records, the OHS catalog, or [www.zarex.com](http://www.zarex.com). Copies may also be ordered through the PSU Department of Music at the price of $15.00 per disc. Proceeds from the sale of *Traditions* benefit the Fisk Opus 106 Society.

Requests for *demonstrations* of the organ are now being accepted for the spring semester. These sessions are offered to K-12 school classes or other organized groups. To make an appointment, contact Dr. Susan Marchant, university organist, at 620/235-4476 or via e-mail at smarchan@pittstate.edu.

The **2001-2002 Fisk Recital Series** continues with two spring events:

- January 27, 3:00 pm  
  - Susan Marchant, organist
- February 15, 7:30 pm  
  - David Kuehn, trumpet,  
    - with Susan Marchant, organ  
    - and Todd Hastings, trumpet
Jazz Festival to Feature the Count Basie Orchestra

Professor Robert Kehle, Director of Jazz Studies at Pittsburg State University, has announced that the guest artists at this year’s PSU Jazz Festival will be the Count Basie Orchestra. Now in its 28th year, this annual gathering is recognized as a highlight among the many spring events in Pittsburg. As always, the day’s activities will include performances by college and high school ensembles, clinics and adjudication by visiting artists, and the evening concert at Memorial Auditorium. The Festival is set for Friday, March 1.

The appearance of the Basie Orchestra is made possible through co-sponsorship with the PSU Performing Arts and Lecture Series and Memorial Auditorium.

For further information about the Festival, contact Prof. Kehle at 620/235-4474 or via e-mail at rkehle@pittstate.edu.

Musical Encounters: The American Southwest

Dr. Anne Patterson, chair of the PSU Department of Music, designed a professional development program for the summer of 2002 that has been selected for sponsorship by the College Music Society. The program, entitled “Musical Encounters: The American Southwest,” will be offered at Southern Methodist University’s Taos (New Mexico) campus.

Dr. Patterson, director of the project, has assembled a faculty from across the United States to present an intensive week-long look at the confluence of Native American, Hispano, and Anglo music and culture in the American Southwest. She notes that the program is intended for “interested, curious, intelligent, educated non-specialists.”

Students will encounter the music, art, pottery, architecture, and history of the area through classroom offerings, field trips, and performances by area artists. The dates of the session overlap with the dates of the Taos Powwow, so the Powwow has been folded into the schedule for the week. Participants will learn about this gathering of Nations and about etiquette proper for guests at the ceremonies. Then they will attend the Powwow on the final day of the class.

A frontier where Native American, Hispano, and eventually Anglo cultural streams touched, and still touch, each other, Taos and its immediate surroundings provide an ideal location for studying one example of the trans-cultural heritage of our own country, Dr. Patterson believes.

It also provides an opportunity for students to put American history in perspective. “When Spanish explorers arrived in Northern New Mexico in 1540,” she said, “the area had known civilization for hundreds of years.”

Dr. Patterson has already visited the Taos Chamber of Commerce to elicit support for the summer program, and she has encountered enthusiasm for the project among Native American musicians. “Tony Isaacs of Indian House Records in Taos has been kind enough to offer assistance. I’m honored that he is interested in this project—he knows that I am a non-specialist, but that I approach this work with great respect and affection,” she said.

The program is scheduled for July 6-13, 2002 on the SMU-in-Taos campus. Information is presently available at <http://www.nativeculture.com/cmstaos> or by accessing the CMS Web site at <http://www.music.org> (click on the “2002 Calendar of Events” and then scroll down to July 6-13).

Interested persons may also contact Dr. Patterson at 620/235-4467. She notes that this program is appropriate for faculty members needing to “re-tool,” graduate students, and mature undergraduate students.

PSU Music Notes is published twice a year by the Department of Music at Pittsburg State University

Anne Patterson
Chair, Department of Music
Susan Marchant
Newsletter Editor

ALUMNI NEWS

Have we heard from you lately? If not, please take a moment to complete the response form and return it to us! This is the best way to keep our files updated and to share news of your recent activities with other members of the PSU Music Alumni network. Thanks!

Sammye Beck (MM ‘71) writes that she is in her fourth year of service as piano accompanist for the Joplin High School choirs. She taught elementary music and orchestra in the Joplin schools from 1968 until her retirement in 1998.

Michael Brandel (BM, BME ‘95) and his wife, Jayne, have moved back to Lawrence, from Ohio. Michael reports that they are homeowners now, and that their daughter, Tabitha, loves life in Kansas! Michael is working as a K-12 vocal music instructor at McLouth USD 342, and Jayne is working on an NIH grant in the Department of Speech-Language Hearing at the University of Kansas. They are expecting their second child at the end of May.

Karen (Reeves) Brownfield (BME ‘99) and her husband Michael (BS ‘98) are the proud parents of a baby girl, Abby Elaine, born on July 30.

Ty Buset (att. ’92-’96) and his wife, Nancy, have settled in Portland, Oregon. Ty is employed by NPC International, currently serving as a supervisor in the area of customer relations for the National Pizza businesses in the Portland and Vancouver metro areas. Nancy completed work on her Doctor of Optometry degree in May, and she is working with several practices in Portland.

David Chamberlain (BM ’99) is living in Tulsa and working as a customer service representative for the Sun Tech company. He continues to be active in the area as a soloist and a member of the Bartlesville Choral Society.

Glen Clugston (BA ‘52) writes that he has researched and prepared a concert/semi-staged presentation of Victor Herbert’s only opera, Natoma, a work that has not been heard in at least 85 years. The orchestration has been discovered in part at the Library of Congress, and he is hoping to help put it together for a presentation with orchestra. Glen has also recently served as musical director for a musical based on William Inge’s Come Back, Little Sheba. The production starred Donna McKechnie and will be recorded soon.

Kathleen Coffee (MM ’93 and professor emeritus, Axe Library) is living in Brookston, Indiana. She is singing in local groups, and she gave a recital of French music at Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri.

Lisa (Swaim) Collier (BSE ’99) and her husband Troy (BSE ’96) announce with joy the birth of their first child, Jenna Elyse Collier, on September 17.
Beth England (BME '96) continues in her position at Lewis-Clark State College. She writes of a richly inspirational and rewarding trip to Kenya last summer as a member of a team of 111 people who were engaged in various ministry tasks in the region. Beth served as music leader for the project and assisted with many other aspects of the trip. She lists among the many highlights of the trip the opportunity to participate in the Pray Around Africa gathering in Nairobi.

Mike Fischer (BME '80) is currently serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Boise State University. Prior to this appointment, he was a member of the music faculty at Baylor University, where he taught tuba and euphonium.

Giselle (Eastman) Fleming (BSE '99) and Hyriam (BSE '99) are pleased to announce the birth of the daughter, Livia Danielle, on November 24. Hyriam and Giselle are living in Sublette, KS, busier than ever with teaching and various community activities.

Sandra (Ellis) Freeman (BM '63, MS '65) and her husband, Ron, are living in Columbia, Missouri, where they are involved in directing and singing in local choirs. Their daughter, Judy, and her husband are expecting a child soon.

Bill (BM '83) and Lisa Gilbert recently visited Pittsburg with their two sons, James and Richard. Bill is currently working in the computer industry in Houston, Texas, where the family lives.

Gary Green (BME '74) has entered the Ivory Tower and is loving life as a college professor. He is currently serving as the visiting Dorothy Spence Druckemiller Class of 1939 Artist in Residence at the College of William and Mary. Gary teaches musical theater performance and history, and applied voice for actors. He served as musical director and conductor for Kiss Me, Kate this fall.

Ruth (Kern) Hanke (MM '90) lives with her husband Jurgen and sons in Neodesha, Kansas. She teaches at Independence Community College, teaches voice privately, and is completing work on a PhD (she is ABDA at this point).

Nancy Jones (MS '62) recently held the tenth anniversary performance of the Gems from the Thuenemann Library in Fayette, Missouri. She continues to teach voice and curate the collection.

Nicole (Pearson) Morrow (BSN '01) was joined in marriage to David Morrow (BST '01) on June 2 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Nicole and David have settled in Peoria, where David has accepted a position with the Caterpillar Corporation. Nicole has sent word that she passed the NCLEX exam and looks forward to beginning her career in the healthcare profession.

Michael Oglesby (BME '99), formerly with the Aurora, MO, schools, is now at Webb City as Assistant Band Director for both the High School and Junior High. Michael and his wife, Barbie, would like to announce the birth of their first baby, Matthew Alan, on June 28. He reports that Matthew is growing like a weed!

Larry (BME '62, MS '66) and Gloria Sanborn are living in Joplin, Missouri. Larry retired from his music position at Joplin High School and is a United Methodist minister.

Nancy Sapp (BME '73) is beginning her third year as an Assistant Director of Special Education with the Southwest Kansas Area Cooperative (SKACD), which serves 16 school districts in southwestern Kansas. Nancy continues to use her musical skills by directing the bell choir at First United Methodist Church, Dodge City, where she also sings in the choir and serves as substitute organist. During the past two summers, she has played piano in the Long Branch Saloon as part of the Boot Hill Museum Variety Show. Her son Michael and his wife are stationed with the military in Germany, and her daughter Julie is a sophomore at Southwestern College, majoring in music theater and music education.

Robert Smith (BME '80) continues to live in Switzerland with his wife, Prof. Janice Harper-Smith. He has performed at Bayreuth in 1997, and he has performed at Covent Garden, Vienna State Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, and many other houses in Europe. He has made his USA debut with the San Francisco Opera in October, 2001. His first CD, Robert Dean Smith Sings Wagner, is out on the Arte Nova Voices series, Classics Label 743218111762.

Irlene Swain (BME '70, MM '72) visited Emeritus Prof. Margaret Thuenemann in November with her son, Brian. She is still living in New York City, concertizing, giving voice lessons, and working in musical therapy. She hopes to record a CD in the near future.

James Wintle (BM '64, MS '65) sends word that this year's activities will include a healthy dose of international travel. Performances of his music will take him to Spain in March and the Czech Republic in July. In between those trips, he will travel to Japan in May to judge a competition.

Obituary

We received the tragic news of the death of Melissa (Harley) Augustson (BA '99) at her home in Alma, GA on December 14. The victim of a homicide, Melissa's body was discovered by her husband, Michael (MM '98) upon his return from work at the Wayne County High School in Jessup, GA, where he serves as a band director. At the time of this writing, a suspect has been taken into custody. During her years at PSU, Melissa was an active participant in both the band and choral programs.