PSU ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

Plans were unveiled this spring for a major endowment/capital campaign to be undertaken by Pittsburg State University and the PSU Foundation.

In officially launching the campaign, PSU President Dr. Donald Wilson said, "Today is an historic day for Pittsburg State University and the countless individuals and groups which are affiliated with this great institution. The PSU Foundation and the entire University community enthusiastically accept one of the most important challenges in Pittsburg State's history. Leaders representing all areas of interest and involvement overwhelmingly support the program to gain unprecedented levels of private support for needed capital improvements and the expansion of endowment resources."

Donald Widner, Pittsburg businessman and chairman of the PSU Foundation Board of Trustees, said the Campaign for Distinction is a natural step and is based on more than a year and a half of planning. "The University's increasing emphasis upon fundraising in recent years and our success in making a strong case for support has brought us to this juncture," Widner said. "This program for endowment and capital funds parallels and supports the tremendous achievements, hard work, and contributions already being made by the University."

Chairing the Campaign for Distinction will be prominent Pittsburg entrepreneur and PSU alum, O. Gene Bicknell. "By living in Pittsburg, I have many opportunities to witness the dynamic leadership and unending commitment our University is now making on and off the campus," Bicknell said. "The University richly deserves the added support which is being sought, and it has tremendous potential for achieving true distinction with our generous help."

The overall program, which calls for the raising of $9,844,000 in the next three to five years, has seven major components: the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business and Economics, the School of Education, the School of Technology and Applied Science, the Department of Music, the University FM Radio Station, and the Intercollegiate Athletic Program. Each of these areas will launch its own part of the Campaign during the coming year.

CAMPAIGN FOR DISTINCTION

The decision to include the Department of Music in this effort has understandably met with tremendous enthusiasm by members of the department. A five-member committee has held regular meetings with Vice-President for Development and Public Relations Dr. Joseph G. Smoot over the past year and a half, laying careful plans for the project. Focusing on the importance of music and related arts in the life of the whole person, the theme "COMMITMENT TO MUSIC: Life's Extra Gift!" has been selected. To quote the official document of the Campaign for Distinction: "The Department of Music faces serious challenges in identifying talented students to continue the excellent music programs offered by the University. In a sense, the entire University has a stake in the Department of Music, because its welfare helps to determine the extent of the cultural life of the University community. A goal of $1,200,000 has been set for Phase I of the campaign. This money will be directed toward the establishment of an endowment for music scholarships and the acquisition of instruments and equipment considered vital to the continuance of the program. Alumni and friends of the Department of Music will be similarly impressed by the strength of the commitment the University has made to the establishment of an FM Radio Station to be affiliated with National Public Radio and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The PSU administration has gone on record as saying that public radio for the region is central to the mission of the University.

The publication of "PSU Music Notes" as a vehicle for improved communication with music alumni and friends has been one of the first steps taken by the committee. The next steps include the formation of a Department of Music Advisory Board and the planning of a major event, late in the fall semester, which will officially launch the University Music Campaign. Details will appear in the fall issue of "PSU Music Notes."
Faculty Focus
Margaret Thuenemann

Professor Margaret Thuenemann, affectionately known as "Miss T" to her many students over the years, serves as a splendid example of the artist/teacher. While her thorough understanding of vocal production enables her to assist her students in developing their full potential as singers, her own significant career as a concert artist has provided her with special insights into the role of the performer as communicator.

Miss Thuenemann began her professional training as a scholarship student at the Cincinnati College of Music, where she received her BM degree, the Post-Graduate Diploma, and the prestigious Springer Gold Medal of Honor for outstanding achievement in voice. Opportunities for further study were made possible by a Fulbright Grant which took her to Munich in 1953.

While Miss Thuenemann had already begun an impressive concert career in the United States, she elected to remain abroad during the years immediately following her stay in Munich. During this period, which was filled with what must have been an exhausting schedule of performances in all parts of Europe, her singing met with very high critical acclaim. Included in her dossier is a rich assortment of reviews from Germany and Spain which are nothing short of phenomenal. Her concertizing in this country, equally extensive, was received with similar enthusiasm. Her broad range of repertoire covered music from composers as diverse as Handel, Verdi, and Mahler, and American critics were especially impressed with her ability to demonstrate a superb knowledge of, and empathy for, such widely varied musical styles.

Her interest in the work of 20th-century composers led her to her involvement in a significant number of premieres of new compositions, both in this country and abroad.

Miss Thuenemann joined the faculty of the then Kansas State College of Pittsburg in 1960, completing a Master's degree (with an emphasis in music history) at this institution shortly thereafter. In addition to her commitment to numerous on-campus performances, she accepted frequent invitations to present concerts in other parts of the midwest and to appear as guest recitalist at gatherings of professional associations such as the Kansas Music Teachers Association and the Music Teachers National Association.

It was not long before Miss Thuenemann's talent for teaching began to catch the attention of other members of the profession. In the last 20 years, she has accepted numerous invitations to present lectures and master classes for students and professionals of all ages. It is well known that PSU vocal students have received from "Miss T" the kind of training which has enabled them to excel in their field, be it performance, education, or some other area of music. Persons familiar with her work have come to expect that her students will move on to careers as solo artists, with opera houses, in various professional ensembles, and in prominent positions within academia. But to "Miss T" such news always comes as a delightful surprise. She confesses that she entered the teaching profession with the expectation of being able to develop capable students into competent singers. "The realization that so many of these students have progressed far beyond that level has been absolutely thrilling," she says.

When asked to compare the relative satisfaction she has derived from having been active as both a performer and teacher, Miss Thuenemann replies that she wouldn't have wanted to miss either opportunity. Then, with a characteristic twinkle in her eye, she adds something which her students have sensed all along: "But, you know, I really love to teach."

GASTON RECITAL
SEPTEMBER 23

Mezzo-soprano Pamela Gaston will return to the PSU campus to present a solo recital at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23. This program, the inaugural event in the new Distinguished Alumni Series, will feature songs by the late Romantic composer, Joseph Marx. Ms. Gaston has been researching the works of Marx as part of her doctoral study at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The program will be free and open to the public.

'86 SUMMER VOCAL MASTER CLASS

The 14th Annual Summer Master Class in Solo Vocal Literature was held at Pittsburg State University, June 1-6. This session has, over the years, grown into an event of national prominence, attracting students from many other states and guest artists who have developed reputations as the nation's leading vocal coaches and pedagogues. The team of Harold Heilberg and Gerald Stark returned to teach this year's class. Participants were coached in the art of staging opera scenes during evening classes with Nancy Jones.

The master class opened with the traditional gala banquet on Sunday evening, held this year at the Crestwood Country Club. This year's opening concert was presented by PSU alumnus, Iraien Swain. Ms. Swain's program, a lecture-recital titled "The Black Prima Donna: From Sorrow Songs to Arias," traced the history of black female singers in Western culture, from the fields and churches to the opera houses and concert stage. For her performance, she chose music which illustrated all these styles: spirituals, art songs, and opera arias from the 18th-20th centuries. Ms. Swain was assisted in this program by pianist Lori Kehler, adjunct member of the PSU music faculty.

Two other performances rounded out the week's activities. The annual pre-college recital, held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, provided an opportunity for area voice teachers to present their high school students in a public recital. The honors concert closed the master class on Friday, June 6. Following tradition, the first half of the honors concert presented students in recital, while the second half featured staged opera scenes which had been prepared throughout the week.
MARKWOOD HOLMES HONORED BY KMEA

Emeritus professor of music Markwood Holmes was recognized for his contribution to the profession when, at the annual meeting of the Kansas Music Educators Association this spring, he was named to that organization's Hall of Fame. This most recent honor may be added to a long list of awards which includes a special citation by the American String Teachers Association, as well as widespread recognition for his work as a composer.

Professor Holmes touched many areas of the program during his 22 years as a faculty member at PSU, teaching violin, viola, composition, and orchestration, and playing an active role in the establishment of the resident string quartet, orchestra, and youth symphony.

Pittsburgh residents will be pleased to know that, after a year's absence, Markwood and Leone Holmes have re-established their home in this community.

GUEST ARTISTS, 1986-87 SEASON

A number of distinguished guest artists will appear in Pittsburgh during the 1986-87 concert season. The PSU Performing Arts and Lecture Series, which will expand this year to a nine-event series, covers a broad range of the performing arts. Of special interest to music supporters in the area will be the appearance of the ever-delightful Professor Peter Schickele (P. D. Q. Bach) with the Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, November 8, and a performance by the renowned Merce Cunningham Dance Company on March 23. Information concerning tickets and dates may be obtained by calling the PSU Ticket Office (316/231-7030).

Held in the more intimate setting of McCray Recital Hall, the PSU Solo and Chamber Music Series will feature artists of international reputation:

Sept. 28 Yfrah Neaman, violinist, with the SEK Symphony
Sept. 30 Yfrah Neaman, assisted by Rita Sloan, pianist, and the PSU Resident Quartet
Oct. 28 Salmagundi Ensemble
Dec. 2 Stanley Waldoff, pianist
Feb. 3 Lisa Goode Crawford, harpsichordist
Mar. 31 Penelope Jensen, soprano
Michael Zenge, pianist

Master classes will be held in conjunction with the visits of Mr. Neaman, Ms. Crawford, and Ms. Jensen. Details concerning the nature of the classes, fees (if any), etc. vary with the event, but in all cases the classes are made available to the general public. Further information may be obtained by calling the Department of Music (316/231-7000, x4466). Ticket inquiries should be directed to the PSU Ticket Office.

MARK Powis

Calendar of Events

September
10 * Taiwan Youth Goodwill Mission, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
14 Faculty Recital, Paul Carlson, violin, 3:00 p.m.
16 Graduate Recital, Ling Chao Chen, piano, 8:00 p.m.
21 Faculty Recital, Burton Parker, baritone, 3:00 p.m.
23 Distinguished Alumni Series: Pamela Gaston, mezzo-soprano, 8:00 p.m.
28 * SEK Symphony Orchestra, with Yfrah Neaman, violin, 3:00 p.m.
30 * Solo & Chamber Music Series: Yfrah Neaman, violin

October
2 Senior Recital, Becky Swaney, piano, 8:00 p.m.
9 * Performing Arts & Lecture Series: Second City Touring Company, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
14 Resident String Quartet, 8:00 p.m.
16 Jazz Ensemble, 8:00 p.m.
22 * Performing Arts & Lecture Series: Flying Karamazov Brothers, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
23 Symphonic Choir, 8:00 p.m.
28 * Solo & Chamber Music Series: Salmagundi Ensemble, 8:00 p.m.

November
2 * Treble Clef Club Benefit Concert, 3:00 p.m.
8 * Performing Arts & Lecture Series: PDQ Bach with the SEK Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
18 Collegium Musicum, 8:00 p.m.
20 * Performing Arts & Lecture Series: General William Westmoreland, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
20 Jazz Ensemble, 8:00 p.m.

December
2 Solo & Chamber Music Series: Stanley Waldoff, piano, 8:00 p.m.
4 Concert Band, 8:00 p.m.
7 Symphonic Choir, with the SEK Symphony, 3:00 p.m.
10 Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert, 8:00 p.m.
12 Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert, 8:00 p.m.
14 Centennial Choir, 3:00 p.m.

* Tickets required. For further information, contact the PSU Department of Music (316/231-7000, x4466).

All events take place in McCray Recital Hall unless noted otherwise. Please consult local news media for any changes in the above information.

SCHRAG MEMORIAL ESTABLISHED

The Department of Music announced this year the establishment of the Priscilla S. Schrag Memorial Prize for Excellence in Music. The Prize will be presented annually to an outstanding music student who exhibits strength of character as well as dedication to excellence in scholarship and performance. Mark Powis, graduate student from Garnett, KS who completed work on an MM degree this May, was chosen as the first recipient of the Schrag Prize and was recognized in a ceremony held during February.

Mrs. Schrag, a strong supporter of involvement in the arts, came to Pittsburgh in 1980 with her husband, the Rev. Gary Schrag, pastor of First United Methodist Church. At the time of her death in 1985, she was director of medical records at Mt. Carmel Medical Center.

This memorial has been made possible through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. John White, other members of the Pittsburgh medical community, and friends and relatives of Mrs. Schrag.
ALUMNI NEWS

We welcome news about our alumni at any time. Each issue of “PSU Music Notes” will carry as many entries as space will allow.

Cleis (Armour) Bays (BM ’45) has been working as a library clerk at the University of Illinois. Her husband, Robert Bays, retires this year after 12 years as director of the School of Music at the University of Illinois, and the couple will move to Austin, TX.

Becky Blaes (BM, BME ’83) and her husband John have announced the birth of a son, Andrew Joseph, born March 2. Becky continues as vocal music instructor at Labette County High School.

William Browning (BM ’47) is on the piano faculty at the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University. His concertizing in 1966 has included extended tours of the Peoples Republic of China and the United Kingdom. He serves as adjudicator for various national and international piano competitions, and he publishes regularly in professional journals in this country and abroad.

Rolland Bushner (BM ’42) is employed as an editor and administrator for the Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., Rutherford, New Jersey.

Ken Cooper (BS ’53, MS ’66) is working in the music publishing business as vice-president of SON-KEY, Inc. Their companies have published more than 1,000 pieces, mostly choral. Prior to this position, he was on the music faculty of Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa. Ken would enjoy hearing from classmates at any time: SON-KEY, Inc., P. O. Box 31757, Aurora, CO, 80041.

David Evans (BSED ’33) is now retired, after having owned and operated Evans Music Co. in Chanute, KS for 38 years.

Mike Fischer (BME ’80) has been serving as band director for the Nebraska City, NE public schools since having completed graduate study at the University of Illinois in 1981. He was married in December to Eulanda Anderson.

Mary (Brinn) Gore (BSED ’35) and her husband Harold celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September, 1985. Now residents of Pebble Beach, CA, they returned to PSU for a visit in October, 1985.

James Harris (BME ’77, MM ’81) continues as supervisor of music for USD 499. Elizabeth Anne Harris was born to Jim and Patricia on October 2, 1984.

Libbia Israel (BME ’84) is teaching instrumental music at Jarrett Junior High School in Springfield, MO. She will be married on August 2 to Jerry Peterson of Pittsburg. Libby extends an open invitation to the ceremony, which will take place at First Christian Church, Pittsburg.

Ernest Justice (BME ’42), emeritus professor of music education at Auburn University, is residing in Auburn, AL.

Keith Lemmons (BME ’79) and his wife Pam announce the birth of Megan Danielle, who arrived on December 30. Keith continues as assistant professor of clarinet and saxophone at the University of New Mexico. He is currently serving as New Mexico state president for the International Clarinet Society and NACWPI.

David Lowe sang the role of Kaspar in “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” which was presented in Avery Fisher Hall under the direction of Gian Carlo Menotti. This performance was televised nationally. In February he sang two Massenet operas with the Bel Canto Opera Company of New York.

Marie (Harden) Reynolds (BM ’41), who taught music in Kansas public schools for 31 years, has been retired since 1975. She was the first music teacher elected to the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame (1978), and in 1982 she was named Church Musician of the Year by the Kansas Federated Music Clubs. She remains active as a member of Pittsburg’s Treble Clef Club and Centennial Choir.

Marjorie Suzanne (McCune) Russell (MM ’79) is an elementary music teacher in the Joplin R-8 School District. She was married in June, 1985 to Mark Russell, who teaches 6th grade science at North Middle School, Joplin.

Robert Smith (BME ’80) has completed another year at the Bielefeld Opera Company, Germany, and has signed a 3-year contract with the Hessisches Staatstheater, Wiesbaden. Bob will make his debut at Wiesbaden as Figaro in Rossini’s “Il Barbiere di Siviglia”—a role he has already sung twenty times.

Crystal (Leeka) Stambach (BME ’33) and her husband Fred (BS ’34) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June, 1985. They have retired from their work as owners of Stambach Monuments, Osborne, KS.

Russell Vallier (BME ’82) is selling insurance in Caney, KS. He and his wife have a new baby girl, Lauren Marie, born January 30.

David Wallace (BME ’84) serves as vocal director at Baxter Springs High School. He and Polly McGuchi (BME ’85) will be married on July 19.

Obituary

Evelyn Lisenbee, mother of PSU alum Thomas Lisenbee and active supporter of the Department of Music, died on February 11. Retired from public school teaching, Evelyn had been active in the music programs of the Girard churches and had been a charter member of the Girard Music Club.