PSU Music Notes:
The Inaugural Issue

Pittsburg State University's Department of Music is pleased to present the inaugural issue of a new publication entitled "PSU Music Notes." The result of many months of planning, this newsletter will serve as a primary vehicle for communication with alumni and friends of the department.

Plans call for publication three times yearly, according to the following schedule: November, March, and July. Included in each issue will be material such as alumni news, a calendar of events, a special focus on faculty members, and current information on other aspects of our program.

In thinking about an appropriate cover design for "PSU Music Notes," the decision was made to look to our own building for ideas. McCray Hall has served the department beautifully since its completion in 1930, and it continues to be one of the most attractive facilities on campus. One striking feature of McCray Hall of which we've always been very proud is the beautiful lobby area. Whether being used for a concert, a reception, or just a comfortable place to congregate, McCray Lobby makes a favorable, and lasting, impression. It seemed quite natural, therefore, to incorporate some aspect of this area into our design. The drawings in the upper corners of this page were, in fact, made from rubbings of one of the decorative tiles in the walls of McCray Lobby. We wish to extend special thanks to Mike Halley, Director of Publications at Pittsburg State, and student assistant Wendy Greenwood for their assistance in creating this cover.

As a significant portion of "PSU Music Notes" will be devoted to news of alumni, we encourage anyone with such information to submit it for inclusion in the next available issue. Please feel free to send us clippings, reviews, announcements of appointments, changes of address, or any other news of a personal or professional nature. We would also welcome comments and/or suggestions concerning this publication. Please address all such correspondence to:

Susan Marchant, Editor
PSU Music Notes
Department of Music
Pittsburg State University
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

As alumni and friends of this department, you are already aware of its distinguished history and service to the region. You will be pleased to know that this strong tradition is being maintained and that careful plans are being made to ensure that the excellence will continue into the future. Subsequent issues of "PSU Music Notes" will outline various aspects of a long-range plan designed to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

GREETINGS FROM DEAN WELTY

I am happy to be able to bring you greetings from the College of Arts and Sciences. We are very proud of our Music Department and its alumni. We are always anxious to hear of your accomplishments, and we hope you will have the opportunity to visit the campus and the department often during this school year. A number of exciting music events are planned and we hope you will be able to attend many of these. We are glad to welcome the Department Chairperson, Dr. Gene Vollen, back from a year-long sabbatical. During his absence the department was ably administered by Dr. Susan Marchant, Assistant Professor of Organ.

Dr. Richard Welty, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Reminder
Music Alumni and Participants who have received an update form are urged to return it as soon as possible.
Faculty Focus
Gene Vollen, Chairman

Gene E. Vollen has been serving as Chairman of the Department of Music for the past seven years, having been appointed to that position in 1978 upon the retirement of Dr. Millard Laing.

Dr. Vollen began his affiliation with Pittsburgh State University in 1970, bringing with him a richly varied background which included experiences as diverse as public school teaching and employment with the Civil Service Commission in Washington, D.C.

A native of Michigan, Vollen attended Michigan State University, where he graduated cum laude in 1955 with majors in Music Education and World History and a minor in Music Theory. After several years of public school teaching he returned to Michigan State, earning in 1962 a Master of Music degree with a major in Theory/Composition and a minor in Musicology. Doctoral studies were completed in 1970 at North Texas State University, this time focusing on Musicology with a Composition minor. Listed among his academic honors is a Fulbright Fellowship to the Sorbonne in 1965-66.

Prior to his appointment at PSU, Dr. Vollen taught at the music departments of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, and Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. In his first years here he taught Music History and Applied Low Brass and served as Director of Graduate Studies in Music. Since that time he has been involved in various areas of the curriculum, with the result that he has impacted, in one way or another, virtually every area of our program: Music Theory, Music History, Music Education, Composition, and Performance. This sort of diversity, characteristic of his career, has served him well in his role as administrator, providing him with the ability to view each individual area of the program with a remarkable degree of expertise as well as empathy.

When performing music, Vollen feels most at home in the brass family, having chosen as his major instruments the baritone horn and trombone. True to form, however, he has developed an interest in a number of other instruments and has, with regularity, contributed to various ensemble performances as a player of the harpsichord or recorder. His involvement in musicmaking extends beyond the campus into the community, where he participates in performances for local churches, civic organizations, and stage productions.

In recent years Dr. Vollen has been actively involved in the development of two new degree programs: Bachelor of Arts in Music, and Bachelor of Arts in Music/Piano Technology Emphasis. The former is really a re-establishment of a traditional liberal arts curriculum which is more broadly based than the rather specialized B.M. or B.M.E. degrees. The B.A./Piano Tech degree is designed to provide training for piano technicians within a solid four-year program infused with substantial doses of music and liberal arts courses (see additional article in this issue).

Dr. Vollen’s musicological interests have centered on French vocal literature of the 17th and 18th centuries. His primary contribution to the field has been a book entitled The French Cantata: A Survey and Thematic Catalog, published in 1982 by the UMI Research Press. The inclusion of his work in this prestigious musicological series has won for Vollen recognition as one of the country’s leading authorities on the French Cantata.

Opportunities for further research into this literature were made possible through the granting of a sabbatical leave for the 1984-85 academic year. From July of 1984 through January of 1985, the Vollen family—Gene, his wife Linda, and children Katherine and Guy—resided in Paris, where they enjoyed accessibility to the national library as well as other cultural/educational offerings of the region. Gene hopes to organize the gathered information into a second book about French vocal literature of the period.

By now it should be clear that this administrator contributes to the life of the department in a multitude of ways. As theoretician, musicologist, composer, educator, performer, designer, instrument builder/technician, and advisor, he may best be described as McCray Hall’s own version of the Renaissance Man.

PIANO TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AT PSU

The Bachelor of Arts in Piano Technology was originally designed in 1977 as the first step toward a larger music technology program. This program, when fully developed, would include wind and percussion instrument design and repair as well as the design and construction of stringed instruments. The Tuning and Regulation courses, under the direction of Gene Vollen, began in the fall of 1979, and the full degree sequence was sanctioned by the Kansas State Board of Regents to begin in the Fall of 1980.

Vollen, who was trained by his father, then began the process of establishing an advisory committee with members representing piano manufacturers, the Piano Technicians Guild, piano retailers, and piano owners. Due partly to the reorganization and consolidation that has been taking place in the piano industry, this has been a slow process.

Interest in the program has developed rapidly and through gifts and money earned by rebuilding, it now has a comprehensive collection of specialized tools as well as an ample supply of replacement parts. Without actively promoting the piano technology area, this program has served 22 people in the Tuning and Regulation sequence and has produced two Bachelor of Arts/Piano Technology graduates.

Further information concerning the piano technology program at PSU may be obtained by contacting Dr. Vollen through the Department of Music.
GUEST ARTISTS, 1985-86

Pittsburg State University’s 1985-86 concert season began on September 9 with a stunning performance by the St. Louis Symphony in Memorial Auditorium. One week later the Southeast Kansas Symphony opened its season with a gala pops concert featuring the McLain Family Band, Ambassadors of Bluegrass from Kentucky.

The Solo and Chamber Music Series will again bring artists of international stature to the PSU campus, with the following schedule:

Oct. 29-Eder String Quartet
Nov. 19-Rita Sloan, pianist
Jan. 17-Max van Egmond, baritone
Mar. 25-Eugene Rousseau, saxophonist
Apr. 29-Patricia McCarty, violist
Ms. McCarty will also appear with the SEK Symphony on April 27

Arrangements for residencies and/or masterclasses are often made with these artists. Such is the case this year with musicians from the St. Louis Symphony and Series artists van Egmond and Rousseau. These sessions are open to PSU students and staff, other area students, and members of the general public. There is, in most cases, a modest registration fee for the event. Further information may be obtained by calling the PSU Department of Music, 316/231-7000, ext. 4466.

January
14 Residency, Max van Egmond, baritone
16 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Max van Egmond, baritone, 8:00 p.m.
21 Guest Recital, Patrick Rafferty, violin, 8:00 p.m.
28 Senior Recital, Kathryn Parke, soprano, 8:00 p.m.
30 *Performing Arts & Lecture Series: Budd Schulberg, lecturer, 7:00 p.m.

February
11 Resident String Quartet, 8:00 p.m.
15 State Piano Festival
16 Faculty Recital, Susan Marchant, organ, 3:00 p.m.
19 *Performing Arts & Lecture Series: Peking Acrobat, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
23 *Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra, 3:00 p.m.
27 Concert Band, 8:00 p.m.

March
4 Symphonic Choir, 8:00 p.m.

* Tickets Required. For further information, contact the PSU Ticket Office (316/231-7030) or the PSU Department of Music (316/231-7000, ext. 4466).

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

November
2 *Performing Arts & Lecture Series: Missouri Repertory Theatre, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
3 *Treble Clef Club Benefit Concert, 3:00 p.m.
3 Senior Recital, Michelle Lane, violin, 7:00 p.m.
12 Senior Recital, Tom Mahan, tuba, 8:00 p.m.
14 Collegium Musicum, 8:00 p.m.
19 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Rita Sloan, pianist, 8:00 p.m.
21 Jazz Ensemble, 8:00 p.m.
23 Senior Recital, Donna Welty, soprano, 7:00 p.m.
24 Joint Senior Recital: Richard Walker, trombone, Ronda Vickers, trumpet, 3:00 p.m.

December
2 Graduate Recital, Marilynn O’Sheilds, trumpet, 8:00 p.m.
5 Concert Band, 8:00 p.m.
6-7 Midwest Low Brass Symposium
8 *Opera, “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 p.m.
8 Senior Recital, Linda Sawyer, flute, 7:00 p.m.
11 Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert, 8:00 p.m.
13 Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert, 8:00 p.m.

LOW BRASS SYMPOSIUM

Pittsburg State University will host the 1985-86 Midwest Low Brass Symposium on December 6-7, 1985. Geared toward the public school teacher, the event will consist of clinics, discussions, recitals, and literature demonstrations. Visiting artists will include Keith Brown and M. Dee Stewart (Indiana University), Vernon Forbes (University of Nebraska), and Charles McAdams (Central Missouri State University). Participants may register on a credit or noncredit basis. For further information, contact Prof. Robert Kehle in the PSU Department of Music, 316/231-7000, ext. 4474.
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.

Diana Allan (BM, BME 1981) has recently accepted a position as vocal instructor at St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas. Her new address: 11660 Heubner, #1306, San Antonio, TX, 78230.

Terry Basom (BME 1973) is presently on the music faculty of Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario, a university of about 7,000 students. His teaching duties include flute, clarinet, and saxophone.

Carol Cook (BM 1980) recently sang the role of "Bastienne" in Mozart's "Bastien and Bastienne" with the Springfield Regional Opera. She was joined by Bill Gilbert (BM 1983), who sang the role of "Colas."

Robert Diskin (BSME 1980) continues as District Sales Manager for the Panasonic Corporation. He sings in the choir of St. John's Catholic Church in Waukakee, Wisconsin, where he resides with his wife, Karen, and son, Eric.

Gina Ferraro (BME 1978, MM 1984) completed her seventh year of teaching elementary music in the Coffeyville public schools. During the spring of 1985 her choir had the honor of performing for the 50th anniversary meeting of KMEA in Wichita. Gina was married this summer to Pat Hale and has moved to Florida, where she plans to continue her teaching career.

Jeanne Fiene (BME 1983) is actively recruiting members for a new alumni chapter of SAI. Meetings of this group began in October. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jeanne through the Department of Music.

David Gaston (BM 1975, MM 1976) was recently appointed Director of the Choral Arts Singers of St. Louis, a semi-professional choral organization which has been in existence since 1973. This group performs regularly with members of the St. Louis Symphony and other distinguished guest soloists. Their spring schedule calls for a performance of Honegger's "King David."

Larry Gillum (MS 1967) has completed 18 years of service in the Music Department of Jefferson County Schools, Colorado's largest school district (about 75,000 students). He is active in the Denver area as an organist and pianist, and his recreational time is devoted to various activities in the Rocky Mountains with family members Brenda, David, and Shawn.

Steve and Pat Harry (BM, BME 1971) continue to serve the Ft. Scott area in important musical capacities. U.S.D. 234 appointed Steve as Director of Bands, effective Fall, 1985. Pat serves the same school district as Director of Vocal/Choral Activities.

James Holman (BME 1972, MM 1981) is employed as manager of Pioneer Music in Neosho, Missouri. Jim directed two workshops in instrument repair for PSU this summer through the Continuing Education Program.

Carol Hoyt (MM 1985) has been serving as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Music, teaching in the keyboard area with a special emphasis on piano pedagogy. This Spring she will be offering a seminar for private piano teachers through the Continuing Education Program.

David Lowe was a soloist at both the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and in the Spoleto Italy Festival, receiving superb reviews.

Steve Lyons (BME 1970, MM 1973) was recently named to the position of Director of Bands at McDonald County High School in Anderson, Missouri.

Keith Paulsen-Thorp (BME 1977) writes from Louisiana that he is the principal violist (and Denise plays horn) in the Arcadia Symphony in Lafayette, Louisiana. Keith is organist at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, Louisiana. Denise is teaching Business Systems Analysis and Design at a local technical college.

Bob Stahl (BME 1965, MM 1968) continues as Director of the Pittsburg Middle School Band. Recent honors include a performance by this ensemble at the 1985 KMEA In-Service Workshop at Century II in Wichita.

Jo Anne (Young) Taylor (BME 1977) was a soloist with David Vogeding's Schola Cantorum. Blake Samson, reviewer for the Kansas City Star, wrote: "Jo Anne Taylor revealed a rich and gleaming voice."

Jim Wintle (BM 1964, MS 1965) is musical director of the Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival, Durant, Oklahoma. His wife, Betty Wintle (BM 1964, MS 1965) is the vocal director. Jim's compositions have been given recent performances by the following ensembles: the Aspen Woodwind Quintet, the Verdi Trio, and the Aurora Trio.

Tony Woodward (BME 1964) organized a splendid Bicentennial Camp Meeting for the Southwest District of the United Methodist Church and directed the mass choir for the event.

Obituary

Eddie Foxall (BME 1982) died unexpectedly on May 23, 1985. He had been working as an assistant manager at Grandy's Restaurant in Joplin, Missouri.