Music Notes

Vol. 20, No. 2

The Bachelor of Arts in Music Degree Returns to Pittsburgh State

After an absence of several years, the Bachelor of Arts in Music has returned to the degree offerings of Pittsburgh State University. This broadly-based liberal arts degree with an emphasis in music is ideally suited to students who want to study music at the university level, but who have professional aspirations other than those of becoming a music educator or professional performer. Because of the flexibility of this degree, BA students may either minor in a secondary field of interest or pursue a double major.

Completion of the Bachelor of Arts prepares students to continue their music study at the graduate level, or to pursue career options in various areas of the music industry. It also serves as excellent preparation for entry into the professional schools of other disciplines.

Prof. A. Douglas Whitten, director of athletic bands and professor of tuba and euphonium at PSU, has led the effort for the reinstatement of this time-honored degree, and he serves as advisor for students who are enrolled in the program. For further information, contact Prof. Whitten at 620-235-4070, awhitten@pittstate.edu.

Notes from the Chair

On behalf of all of the faculty and staff, I am pleased to bring you greetings from the Department of Music. Another fantastic year has concluded and faculty and students alike have achieved many tremendous accomplishments. Events such as the World Premiere of “Epistle to be Left in the Earth” for Wind Ensemble and Chorus by distinguished alumnus Hubert Bird and a fantastic performance of the Brahms “Requiem” by the choirs highlighted the year. On the other end of the spectrum, we graduated nine students with undergraduate degrees as well as three graduate students. Indeed, it is an exciting time for music at Pittsburgh State University.

Some projects that were completed this past year include the purchase of two new Adams timpani to finish the set, the purchase of numerous CD’s needed to upgrade the holdings of our recording inventory, the purchase of new choral risers, and the remodeling of the Kelce rehearsal space.

Projects to be completed this summer include $70,000 of work in Kelce Auditorium to put in new heating and air systems, the creation of more practice rooms, and continued work on the improvement of the listening lab. Many of these improvements are made possible by your continued support of the department through generous contributions made during the Annual Fund Drive and the Phone a Thon. Your donations are much appreciated and I would like to invite you to continue this giving whenever possible.

Please keep in contact with the department as we like to be kept abreast of accomplishments and changes in your lives. Feel free to stop by and visit anytime you are in the area and here’s hoping for a safe and restful summer.

All the Best-

Dr. Craig A. Fuchs
Chair, Department of Music

An Exciting Year for the Southeast Kansas Symphony

The Southeast Kansas Symphony enjoyed a tremendous concert season in 2004-2005. From Beethoven’s 9th Symphony to the world premiere performance of John Ross’s Invocations, the ensemble performed exciting, challenging works to enlighten and entertain audiences of all ages.

A Baby Symphony, the orchestra’s educational outreach program that was formatted for ages 0-3, took place in October at Pittsburg’s Educational Resource Center. A roomful of babies, toddlers, parents, and teachers were treated to music of Mozart, Bach, Debussy, and some silly songs. The Symphony also collaborated with area groups this past season. A performance of Mozart’s The Magic Flute involved members of the SEK Symphony with the Heartland Opera Theater company of Joplin, Missouri. Brahms’s A German Requiem, conducted by Dr. Susan Marchant, was this year’s collaborative event with choirs from PSU and the surrounding communities.

Season concerts included solo performances with Prof. Robert Kehle (Martin’s Gallade), Dr. Paul Carlson (John Ross Invocations), and Prof. James Hall (Hubert Bird’s Concerto for Flute and Orchestra). February afforded an opportunity to work with Maestro William Intrilligator, conductor of the Dubuque Symphony, in an all-Dvorak program as part of the annual Honors Orchestra project.

Looking ahead to next season, the Southeast Kansas Symphony will prepare various concerts as well as standard pieces of symphonic literature, including Peter and the Wolf and Mozart’s Jupiter Symphony. Student winners of the Concerto and Aria competition include Kristin Humbard, piano; Markel Porter, mezzo-soprano; and Scott Sternberger, piano. Dr. Selim Giray, professor of violin and viola, will also be featured.

Information about upcoming events as well as past events, symphony history, and much more can be found at the Southeast Kansas Symphony web site: www.seksymphony.org.

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
Losses in the McCray Hall Family

In January, 2005, the PSU Department of Music lost two distinguished members of its faculty:

Robert J. Schott (1924-2005)  
Professor Emeritus, Woodwinds

Instructor, Voice/Opera

Friends, family, colleagues, alumni, and students gathered in McCray Recital Hall on January 22 and March 5, respectively, to celebrate the lives of these gentlemen and to express gratitude for their presence among us.

Memorial tributes, offered by colleagues of Prof. Schott and Woods, appear on the special insert page in this edition of PSU Music Notes.

2005 Schrag Prize Awarded to Scott Sternberger

The 2005 PSU Department of Music Honors Convocation culminated in the naming of Scott Sternberger as this year’s recipient of the Priscilla S. Schrag Prize. The annual award is given to one outstanding music student who demonstrates strength of character and dedication to excellence in performance and scholarship. Scott, a senior who is completing double majors in piano performance and Spanish, has distinguished himself for the excellence he brings to every aspect of his work at PSU.

Students Shine in Competitions

Ryan Lovell, PSU senior clarinet major, was one of 13 clarinetists accepted (based on the submission of his senior recital CD) to the National Intercollegiate Band that performed during July in Lexington, Kentucky, under the direction of Michael Haithcock.

Scott Sternberger (BM '05), pianist, reached the semi-finals at the Crescendo Music Awards Competition which took place in Tulsa, OK on March 18-19, 2005. This national event was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tulsa.

Pianists Zia Ryu and Veronica Garini, both graduate students in piano performance at PSU, were accepted to perform at the International Keyboard Festival and Institute held at the Mannes College of Music in New York City, July 17-31, 2005.

Summer Offerings in Pittsburg Enlivened by Bands

Local residents were once again treated this summer to the lively sounds of music for winds, brass, and percussion. The performers included a pool of about 70 area players who came together under the baton of Dr. Craig Fuchs to comprise the 7th Annual Pittsburg Community Band. The band offered five concerts in June and July.

Later in the summer, PSU played host for a second year to the “Brass Spectacular!” Drum and Bugle Corps Show. World-class corps competed at Carrie Smith Stadium on the evening of July 19. An official stop on the Drum Corps International Summer Music Games tour, this event helped the young musicians prepare to compete in the world championship event held in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Trumpet Happenings

The 2004-2005 academic year was an exciting one for Dr. Todd Hastings and students in the trumpet studio at Pitt State. Students participated in on-campus master classes presented by some of the nation’s leading trumpet performers and teachers. Guest artists included: Vincent DiMartino, trumpet virtuoso and Distinguished Artist in Residence at Centre College; Chip Schutza, Principal Trumpet with the Kansas City Symphony, and Alan Hood, professor of trumpet at the University of Denver’s Lamont School of Music. Students were able to play for the guest artists and receive helpful comments on trumpet playing, music, and what it takes to succeed in today’s educational and performance job markets. Other highlights included hearing performances by Charlie Geyer, Maynard Ferguson, and Doc Severinsen. For more information about trumpet happenings at PSU, contact Dr. Todd Hastings at 620-235-4485.

PSU Trumpet Professor Invited to Metropolitan Opera Orchestra Audition

Dr. Todd Hastings was one of 85 trumpeters chosen from international applications to participate in auditions for a trumpet opening in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in New York City. Following the audition, Hastings said, “It is a great opportunity to participate in such a high profile audition for many reasons, but the best reason is the experience I bring back to the trumpet students at PSU. Through auditions such as this, I can tell my students what is expected of them at auditions and tell them what it is like in the real world of the orchestral audition circuit. These experiences help me in preparing students for success as teachers and performers.”

PSU trumpet students with clinician Chip Schutza
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We welcome news of our alumni and friends.

Please keep us informed.
PSU Department of Music Faculty

Craig Fuchs, Associate Professor
Chair of the Department
Director of Bands

Charles Beard, Lecturer
Clarinet

Reena Berger, Assistant Professor
Piano

Joanne Britz, Assistant Professor
Clarinet and Saxophone

James Clanton, Lecturer
Percussion

DeMaris Gaines, Lecturer
Harp

Selim Giray, Assistant Professor
Violin and Viola

James Hall, Lecturer
Flute

Stella Hastings, Assistant Professor
Director, Southeast Kansas Symphony
Voice, Theory

Todd Hastings, Associate Professor
Trumpet, Jazz, Music Appreciation

Patrick Howle, Instructor
Voice and Opera

David Hurley, Associate Professor
Music History, Oboe, Music Appreciation

Russell Jones, Professor
Director of Graduate Studies
Music Education, Woodwinds

Lori Kehle, Lecturer
Piano

Robert Kehle, University Professor
Director of Jazz Studies
Trombone and Music Appreciation

Susan Marchant, University Professor
Director of Choral Activities
Organ, Harpsichord

Jessie Wright Martin, Assistant Professor
Voice, Vocal Pedagogy and Literature

Joyce Medford, Lecturer
Elementary Music Education

Matthew Montague, Associate Professor
Music Education Coordinator
Choral Education, Music Appreciation

John Ross, Assistant Professor
Theory and Composition

Wilfred Pasamba, Lecturer
Cello and String Bass

Janis Saket, Lecturer
Voice and Diction

A. Douglas Whitten, Assistant Professor
Director of Athletic Bands
Tuba and Euphonium
Gratitude for the Legacy of
Robert J. Schott
by Paul B. Carlson

I am delighted to take this opportunity to relish some of the memories I have of my friend and colleague—Professor of Woodwind Instruments at Pittsburg State University from 1949-1989—Robert Schott. His death on January 13, 2005 has been a loss to all who knew him during his long and magnificent career. We recall his splendid musicianship, his outstanding skill and warmth in communicating with students and colleagues, his delightful sense of humor, and his deep caring for all who were privileged to know and work with him.

Robert Schott brought to his teaching a wealth of professional experience which included membership in the 98th Infantry Band of the U.S. Army in World War II and the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra. He was the first Secretary-Treasurer of the International Clarinet Society. His many graduates now teach in numerous universities and colleges and in the public schools; and they perform in symphony orchestras and military bands throughout the United States and Canada.

Listening to the tributes from Mr. Schott's former students during a recent memorial program in McCray Recital Hall, we were again reminded of the preciousness of the legacy he left to us. Remembrances were offered by some former students, now holding prestigious positions, who had come back to Pittsburg after traveling long distances. There was created at this event an atmosphere that inspired us to savor our time with loved ones as Bob Schott had done. Much appreciated were the eloquent remarks given by Rev. Thomas Sims, Senior Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburg. Rev. Sims had kept in touch with Bob and his wife Isa, during the illness that preceded his death.

Tributes included Bob's innate kindness and thoughtfulness. One former student recalled that he always seemed to have time to help students with their problems; he also had time for his wife Isa and daughter, Jennifer, now a successful song writer in Nashville. He could be firm when dealing with students: "may I play some band music today for you, Mr. Schott, since I just couldn't find a minute of time to practice the music you assigned last week," recounted a student. "Yes, you may play band music, after I hear your assigned music from last week," exclaimed Mr. Schott, the studio teacher of long experience with the human frailties of "facing the music."

Bob and I would sometimes reminisce about the clarinet quintets we played over many years: these included the Mozart, Brahms, Bliss, and Gordon Jacob. It was always enjoyable to recall his excellence as a soloist, his sensitivity as a chamber music player, and his delightfully positive company. When playing concerts "on the road," it was always Bob who had the little bottle of stomach and headache pills for his colleagues.

 Isa once told me that Bob always took about half an hour to read and reflect upon some positive literature each morning. Perhaps this may explain why all those short notes Bob wrote to his friends, students, and colleagues with a felt tipped pen, were uplifting to our spirits.

Bob, we would all wish to express to you our gratitude for the magnificent life you lived, and for the many ways you blessed our lives!

Brian K. Woods
A Memorial Tribute
by John C. Ross

It is said that change is the only certainty in life. It could be added that change has a twin sister, loss. Change and loss punctuate our lives, from beginning to end. Ready or not, they urge us to adapt to the new circumstances they introduce. Here at the PSU Music Department we had much to adapt to this past year as we coped with the illness and loss of our colleague Brian Woods.

Brian and his wife Jessie Wright Martin joined our department in the summer of 2001. Jessie was hired first as voice instructor; Brian, although a regular presence in McCray hall, officially joined us as the voice/opera instructor in 2002. Together, as the full-time voice area, they brought with them a love of opera. Because of their professional connections, every summer they and a few students had gigs at the Ohio Light Opera. Every fall and spring there were the Opera Scenes programs; a production of Green Eggs and Ham in March of 2003; Hansel and Gretel in February 2004. As in former years, Brian made opera, and operetta—his personal favorite—a regular feature of life in McCray. Like faculty meetings, only better. Much better.

Handsome in his late 20s, he was a natural on the stage. The elderly lady patrons at the Ohio Light Opera—where his performances received regular show-stopping ovations and his recordings, frequent high praise—would remind Jessie, with a mischievous twinkle in their eye, what a catch she had in Brian! Of his own inclination to perform, he once joked that, no matter how difficult the role or the blocking, once in makeup and costume, he felt he could do anything! Although not given to hyperbole, Brian's singing made you believe he could. Certainly, his students believed it.

Brian was a tenor, whose voice was always a pleasure to hear; frequently it was thrilling. He sang with skill and precision, never miscounting tricky rhythms or meter changes. But he also sang with heart, as when singing the passion-filled arias of his beloved operettas, causing his audiences to cheer.

But we have lost Brian. Cancer took him from us. He fought hard against it, as did Jessie. Diagnosed in July, he continued at his job during the fall semester. Students, admiring his never-flagging spirit, worked all the harder for him. Some of us, looking outward as this unjust illness reduced his frame, also looked inward, questioning what we believed. We were changed, by his life and by his death. Brian died at 31, at home, January 8th, with Jessie by his side. He was well-loved and by so many.

It is said that the flame that burns twice as bright lasts half as long. And Brian, you burned so very brightly.
**Calendar of Events**

### August
- 15: Percussion & Colorguard Camp
- 19: Enrollment
- 22: Classes begin

### September
- 25: *Fisk Organ Recital Series*: Susan Marchant, organ, 3:00 pm

### October
- 4: *Solo & Chamber Music Series*: Sari Gruber, soprano, 7:30 pm
- 8: Homecoming
- 9: Southeast Kansas Symphony Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 pm
- 10: Jazz Concert, Overman Student Center, 7:30 pm
- 13-14: Fall Break
- 18: *Solo & Chamber Music Series*: Mark O’Connor’s Hot Swing Trio, 7:30 pm
- 27: Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 pm

### November
- 1: *Solo & Chamber Music Series*: Sara Davis Buechner, piano, 7:30 pm
- 4: University Choirs, 7:30 pm
- 6: Suzuki Strings Concert, 3:00 pm
- 10: University Bands, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 12: KMTA Auditions, all day
- 17: Southeast Kansas Symphony Youth Concert, Memorial Auditorium, 10:00 am
- 17: Jazz Concert, Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 18: Scholarship Audition Day
- 20: *Southeast Kansas Symphony*, Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 pm
- 30: *Holiday Luncheon Concert*, University Choirs, Overman Student Center, noon

### December
- 2: Madrigal Dinner, University Choirs *(reservations required)*, Overman Student Center
- 7: Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert, Timmons Chapel, 7:30 pm
- 9: Timmons Chapel Christmas Concert, Timmons Chapel, 7:30 pm
- 16: Commencement

### January
- 18: Enrollment
- 19: Classes begin

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*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.

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**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!

**Kim Abels** (BME ’04) and **Will Demings** (BME ’02) tied the knot in a July 2nd ceremony in Baldwin City, Kansas. Both Kim and Will are beginning new teaching jobs in the metro Kansas City area. Kim will hold a multi-faceted position with the Basehor-Linwood schools, and Will will teach elementary music in Kansas City, Missouri.

**M. Eugenia Allen-Egbert** (BSE ’52) is active in the San Francisco Peninsula Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity, currently serving as the Vice-President for Membership. Eugenia follows with interest developments related to PSU’s Fisk organ. She has traveled to visit other Fisk organs and has toured the shop in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

**Kari (Burgess) Arehart** (BME ’01) and her husband, Gene, proudly announce the birth of their first child, Ava Gabrielle, on April 13 in Joplin, Missouri. Kari continues as an elementary music teacher in Carl Junction, and Gene works for Best Buy in Joplin.

**Isaac Brewer** (BA ’97) was awarded the Ph.D. at Penn State this spring. His dissertation is titled “Understanding Work With Geospatial Information In Emergency Management: A Cognitive Systems Engineering Approach in GISScience.” This fascinating research put Isaac in touch with emergency managers in Florida and South Carolina.

**David Chamberlain** (BM ’99) continues to be active in the region as a choral director. A resident of Tulsa, David sang as a member of the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus in their May 7th performance of Haydn’s *Creation*. Earlier, he had participated in two performances of the Brahms *Requiem*, one in Tulsa and the second in Pittsburg.

**Jennifer (Klein) Coon** (BS ’05) and her husband, Jason, announce with joy the birth of their second child, Lathen Grey, on June 3. Jen reports that big sister Ella is adjusting very well to the presence of her younger brother!

**Tammy Crepinsek** (BME ’05) has accepted a position with the Liberal, Missouri schools, where she will be teaching 5-12 band.

**Lori (Bolton) Fleming** (BME ’96) and her husband, Kyle, share the exciting news of the adoption of their son, Aidan James Fleming. Born on April 24, 2004, Aidan was adopted by the couple on January 20 in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan. Both lawyers, Lori and Kyle currently reside in Pittsburg.
Jean Farris Fuller (BME '70) performed an organ recital at the Washington National Cathedral on February 6. Jean continues as organist at St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas.

Sarah (Terrill) Granger (att. '00-'02) and her husband, Sean, are very pleased to share news of the birth of their daughter, Isabelle Renee, on June 25.

Jessica Hanzlcek (BGS '03) celebrates her marriage to Todd Treadwell. The ceremony took place in Whitewater, Kansas, on June 18.

Helen (Otto) Hayward (BM '44) writes that she is still working as a church organist/choir director and orchestra member at Chapman University. She would love to hear from some old schoolmates!

Warren Huffman (MM '73) returned to his native Kansas City this spring for a performance as Uriel in Haydn's Creation. The concert, under the direction of Mark Ball, took place at Village Presbyterian Church on April 24.

Wen-Hsuan Lu (MM '03 and '04) has returned to Taiwan to continue her career as a choral conductor. She is currently serving as assistant conductor of the Taipei Philharmonic Choir, the largest choral organization in the country. In July, she led the women's choir in a performance in Macau. Hsuan is also beginning a faculty appointment at Eternal-Life Christ College, where she will direct the choir and teach voice and opera appreciation.

Jerod Martin (att. '99-'03) has relocated to Rancho Cucamonga, California (about 40 miles east of Los Angeles), where he is serving as manager of a recently-opened Cheesecake Factory restaurant.

Brooka Medlin (BME '04) has now completed her internship in California with the Yamaha Corporation, and she has returned to Missouri. Brooka will begin a 6-12 grade band and choir position with the Jasper schools.

Kevin (BME '02, MM '04) and Katie (Burton) Miller (BME '04) are happy to be returning to the community of Pittsburg. The Millers have joined the music staff of USD #250, Kevin as director of the Pittsburg High School Band, and Katie as director of the Pittsburg Community Middle School Band.

Angela Stansberry (BM '96) had a busy spring semester of teaching and performing. In February, she directed and produced Little Shop of Horrors for the Girard schools, where she now teaches. She was involved in several performances for the Heartland Opera Theatre of Joplin, including a turn at the Queen of the Night in the company's April production of The Magic Flute. Later in the month, she returned to a role she had first performed during her PSU student days, that of Mabel in Pirates of Penzance, singing five performances of the work with Springfield Regional Opera.

Diana (Doyle) Williams (BME '92) sends word that she directed the Webb City Junior High Wind Ensemble in a performance at the January, 2005 Missouri Music Educators Conference. This performance featured the premiere performance of a work titled Loss. Commissioned by the ensemble and composed by Dr. Andrew Boysen, Jr., the music honors the memory of the late Governor Mel Carnahan. Diane has been with the Webb City R-7 School District for ten years. The band is also assisted by Michael Oglesby (BME '98), who has been with the district for four years. Both Diana and Michael would like to thank the PSU faculty for helping their band prepare for this prestigious event.

Justin Writer (BME '98) is now working on his DMA in composition at the University of Oklahoma. He resides in Moore, Oklahoma, with his wife Laura.

Obituaries

Word reached us of the death, on May 16, of Peter Bryce (MM '95) at his home in Sartell, Minnesota.

At press time, we received notification of the death of Libby (Israel) Chappell (BME '84) on July 3 at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

A. Leona Francis, a musician who had reached the age of 101, died at her home in Pittsburg on January 7. Prior to her retirement in 1970, she had taught music in several area schools, including 14 years at Eugene Field School in Pittsburg. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church and a number of organizations, including the PEO Sisterhood and the Treble Clef Club.

Edward Clifford Gordon III, a major benefactor of the Department, died in Fort Scott on February 21 at the age of 92. A lifelong resident of Fort Scott whose career was with the Western Insurance Companies, a business founded by his father, Mr. Gordon was an active philanthropist in his community and beyond. He was responsible for the establishment of the Geraldine Pickrell Gordon Scholarship Fund at PSU, and in so doing, he provided substantial assistance to many students over the years who majored in piano performance. The Department is deeply grateful for his generosity.

Rosemary Trucco, a dear friend of the Department and distinguished singer, died on March 16 at Cornerstone Village in Pittsburg. Mrs. Trucco, who was raised in Southeast Kansas, later attended the Juilliard School and performed in New York, where she was chosen to debut the role of Laurie in Aaron Copland's opera The Tender Land. Many years later, she returned to Southeast Kansas and honored the Department with a gift of opera scores from the collection of her late husband, conductor Victor Trucco. In two seasons (1992, 2002), Mrs. Trucco was in attendance at performances of The Tender Land given by the PSU Opera Program. On these special occasions, she graciously met with members of the PSU casts and shared memories of her own experiences in the role.