MUSIC AT PITTSBURG STATE

Part 3: The Changing Face of McCrøy Hall

To those of us for whom McCrøy Hall forms the center of activity, changes have been few and gradual. Returning alumni and friends, however, notice several prominent new features, starting with the grand fire escapes on the south side of the building and the addition of fire doors that will close off the stairwells in case of a catastrophe. The once sunlit hallways have darkened through the necessity of changing windows into fire doors, and the indoor plants and seating areas that graced the south ends of the corridors have had to give way to fire lanes. The lighting fixtures, smaller versions of those which hang in the lobby, have gradually been replaced with fluorescent tubes, now boxed in to hide the inclusion of emergency lighting.

A glance at the original floor plans will show other alterations made either at some time outside the memory of current occupants or at the time of construction. The blueprint, for instance, shows a second door leading from the lobby into the recital hall. This matching door was placed to the right of the fireplace and, while the framing tile is there, the opening never was. A similar door is shown leading into the backstage area from the west hall, but there is neither physical evidence nor remembrance of such a useful entrance. The creation of Room 318 from the hallway and the two rooms that filled the space between the practice wings would startle those who can still recall these rather small rooms which the original plan labels "band room" and "choral room."

Change in the use of space is much more common than actual physical alteration, being one of the dynamics of a growing and evolving program. One of our alumni who attended PSU on the GI Bill told me that, when he was a student, the department did not have access to the west wing. The Campus Chaplain had his offices on three rooms on the first floor, and Room 211 was the Chapel. There is a ceiling light that illuminates nothing but the fire door now, but it is shown directly on an altar that was placed against the south wall of that room.

During the Second World War, the third floor practice wing had a special use that resulted in some reconstruction which is, in general, hidden from view. The Navy sponsored a cadet corps at PSU, with bunk beds replacing practice pianos. In other words, these small rooms became the sleeping quarters of the cadets. The end practice room, which had a common wall with the men's restroom, was given a new cement floor to help convert it to a shower room. A door was opened between this room and the restroom so that they functioned as one larger space. The floor drains and the extra water supply are still there; just look for Room 301 on the west side.

We know that other spaces in the building were used for cadet training with little or no adjustment. The recital hall seats, however, did cause a problem for the government. The cadets wore white trousers which were being discolored by the green dye that "bled" from the leatherette seat covers. The solution was to have little green slip covers made for each seat (600 at the time) in the hall. These, some looking a little the worse for wear, were still there when new seating was installed in the mid-'70s.

With the closing of the Navy's cadet school, the rooms reverted to the use of the Music Department. Because they had locks installed, the department used these practice rooms for libraries, special instrumental practice (harp, percussion, etc.) and additional teaching space, a practice which continues.

The door that linked the restroom with the shower room was closed, and the shower room became the campus dark room. It was only abandoned for that use in the spring of 1970. At that time, it became a general repair workshop for the department and, since 1988, it has been the third floor custodian room. It may be the spirit of someone who worked or lived in the building at some earlier time and who is now looking for one of these closed doorways or, perhaps, one of the spaces which has disappeared that gives rise to what some of our students call the "McCrøy Hall Ghost."

—Gene Volien
Faculty Focus
New Faculty Appointments

The Department of Music has been involved in several major searches this spring, following the resignations of Dr. Burton Parker and Dr. Gary Corcoran, and the retirement of Prof. Mary James.

While, at the time of writing, a search for Dr. Corcoran’s replacement is still underway, the Department is pleased to announce the appointments of the following three new faculty members.

A baritone who has performed many diverse opera and oratorio roles, he is the product of a bilingual home and speaks Dutch fluently. His other interests include reading, theater, travel, computers, running, and snow skiing.

Joyce Medford has been appointed as a part-time lecturer in the elementary music education area. Ms. Medford has been an adjunct instructor in the department for several years, teaching both Children's Music and Comprehensive Musicianship K-8 courses as well as directing a number of summer workshops — including Orff training — for music teachers in the area.

Ms. Medford attended Emporia State University, where she earned a BME degree in 1956 and an MS degree in 1971. She developed a strong interest in the Orff methods and subsequently completed the first, second, and third levels of Orff certification. In recent years, she has presented numerous Orff workshops in Pittsburg and across the state of Kansas.

Since beginning at PSU on an adjunct basis, she has served as an important liaison between the university and the elementary music teachers of this region.

Carol Hoyt has been appointed as a part-time lecturer in piano pedagogy. Ms. Hoyt has been an adjunct instructor in the Department of Music at various times since 1985, teaching piano, piano pedagogy, and Children's Music courses. She has offered summer workshops for piano teachers as well as beginning organists.

Ms. Hoyt earned a BME degree at Wichita State University in 1977. Following graduation, she taught elementary and secondary music in the Kansas City, Kansas public schools and class piano at Kansas City Community College. In 1982, she and her husband, Lewis, moved to Pittsburg. She began a graduate program at PSU, teaching piano and class piano for the department as a graduate assistant. In 1985, she completed work on the MM degree in piano performance.

In addition to her ability as a pianist, Ms. Hoyt is an accomplished organist and violinist. She holds the position of organist at the Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, where her husband directs the choir, and she is a past dean as well as sub-dean of the Southeast Kansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Ms. Hoyt will oversee the new program in piano pedagogy, which is seen as an attractive degree alternative for piano majors who are interested in establishing a private studio.

Paul Huybrechts

Paul Huybrechts has been appointed as an assistant professor of voice. Mr. Huybrechts has been serving this year as Interim Director of Opera and member of the voice faculty at Auburn University in Alabama. Prior to that appointment, he was a teaching assistant at Louisiana State University, where he assisted in the vocal studios of both Robert Grayson and Martina Arroyo. He has had considerable experience as a teacher of voice, diction, vocal literature, and pedagogy in addition to his more recent duties in directing opera and overseeing all aspects of an opera workshop.

A native of Michigan, Mr. Huybrechts attended Grand Valley State University in that state, earning a BA in music in 1979. His graduate study has been at the University of Southern California (MM '83) and Louisiana State University, where he is completing requirements toward the DMA degree in vocal performance.

Joyce Medford

Moving to Pittsburg with her husband, Bob, in 1972, she first accepted a position as guidance counselor with the Pittsburg public schools. She later was appointed as an elementary music specialist, a position she still holds at the George Nettert Elementary School.
DR. CORCORAN ACCEPTS GEORGIA APPOINTMENT

Dr. Gary Corcoran, Director of Bands at Pittsburg State University since 1972, has accepted a position in the School of Music at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Dr. Corcoran was honored this spring by the Kansas Bandmasters Association, having been named "Outstanding Band Director" by the organization. He has been active in national professional societies as well, having served as editor of the CBNDA Report, the national publication of the College Band Directors National Association, since 1985. He is also serving as Kansas chairman for that organization.

In his new appointment, he will be responsible for the direction of the concert band program and will play a vital role in recruitment for this urban campus. His wife, Kenda (MM '78), leaves a position in the Oswego, KS schools and hopes to teach music in the Atlanta area public schools.

HUBERT BIRD HONORED

Hubert Bird (BA, BS '62; MS '66) was one of four Pittsburg State University alumni chosen to receive the Meritorious Achievement Award at Commencement this May.

Associate professor at Keene State, New Hampshire, Dr. Bird is a highly celebrated composer. Included among his honors is the fact that his composition Blessed in the Nation Whose God is the Lord was named the official anthem of the Bicentennial Celebration of the United States.

ELKS HONOR SIEGLE

Dr. Lawrence Siegle, Professor Emeritus, was honored this spring by the Elks Lodge #1032 as well as the National Organization in being named Citizen of the Year. Upon retirement from PSU in 1975, Dr. Siegle moved to Brownsville, TX, where he undertook the direction of the Camille Lightner Playhouse. He has been highly successful in this activity and continues to make a major cultural contribution to the Brownsville community.

Calendar of Events

**August**

21 Enrollment
22 Classwork begins
24 *Gala Music/Theater Production, Memorial Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

**September**

18 Faculty Recital, Paul Carlson, violin, 8:00 p.m.

**October**

2 Guest Recital; Barrett Sills, *cello, 8:00 p.m.
4 Jazz Ensemble, 8:00 p.m.
7 *SEK Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3:00 p.m.
13 PSU Homecoming Parade and Band Day
28 Guest Recital, Harold Helberg, piano, 8:00 p.m.
30 *Solo and Chamber Music Series: St. Louis Brass Quintet, 8:00 p.m.

**November**

6 Timmons Chapel Series: works by PSU composers, 8:00 p.m.
13 *Solo and Chamber Music Series: Sylvia Wang, pianist, 8:00 p.m.
15 Jazz Ensemble, 8:00 p.m.
18 University Choir, 3:00 p.m.

*Tickets required. For further information, contact the PSU Department of Music (316/235-4466).

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

Announcing the 1990-91 Solo and Chamber Music Series

Oct. 30: St. Louis Brass Quintet
Nov. 13: Sylvia Wang, Piano
Feb. 7: The Verdehr Trio
Mar. 5: Max van Egmond, Baritone
Apr. 23: Nicholas Smith, Horn

AUGUST GALA SET

The Departments of Communication and Music will join forces again this summer in mounting a gala evening of entertainment to mark the beginning of the 1990-91 season.

This year's show, which is set to take place in Memorial Auditorium on the evening of August 24, will be a salute to English composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. Highlights from well-known works such as Cats, Evita, and Jesus Christ, Superstar will be featured in the first part of the program, after which Webber's one-act Tell me on a Sunday (known in its Broadway version as Song and Dance) will be presented.

John Green, newly-appointed faculty member in the Department of Communication, will direct the production. Susan Laushman, graduate assistant in the Department of Music, will serve as music director for the show, which will feature musical arrangements by William Vance.

Proceeds from the production will benefit the scholarship funds of both departments. For ticket information, contact the Department of Communication (316/235-4716).
ALUMNI NEWS

Mark Appier (BME '90) has been awarded a graduate assistantship in music at Wichita State University, beginning next fall.

Julianne Ballato-Rivera (BME '87, MM '88, Ed. Spec '90) was the featured recitalist in the opening concert of PSU's 18th Annual Summer Master Class in Solo Vocal Literature. She was assisted by pianist Lori Kehle (MM '82).

Carol Cook (BM '80) has just completed her first year as a member of the music faculty at Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, MO. She has also begun teaching privately in Pittsburg with Steve Edmund (MM '89) and Kirt Duffy.

Tom J. De Cicchillo, D.C. (BME '65, MS '66) taught instrumental music for seven years in Kansas and Connecticut, after which he toured with a jazz/rock ensemble. From 1975-78 he attended Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, IA. After earning the doctorate, he practiced chiropractic in Italy for seven years. Since 1984, he has been practicing in Sacramento, CA, where he lives with his wife, Tonia.

Kevin Derrick (BM, BME '90) has accepted a K-12 music position in Moscow, KS, USD #209.

Marc Fulgham (BME '77) will be joining the music faculty of Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO this fall.

Gina (Ferraro) Hale (BME '78, MM '84) writes that life in Florida is suiting her very well. She has just accepted a new position with the Duval County School System as a music specialist for a brand new elementary school that will have an enrollment of 1200 students. She will complete Level 1 Orff certification this summer. In her spare time, Gina plays tennis on a doubles team that has completed a second undefeated season.

Ron (BME '62) and LaVonne Harris write that Ron has just retired after having taught music for 30 years. Ron has also worked as a piano tuner for the last 12 years. They are residing in Chelsea, MI.

Dana (Glover) Ihm (BME '84, MM '85) has been teaching high school music in Brodhead, WI for the past two years, where she also served as director of the New Glarus Mannerchor, a Swiss men's chorus. She and her husband have moved to Savannah, GA, where they will begin a team ministry at Central Christian Church: he as senior minister, she as minister of music.

Elizabeth Kuo (MM '90) will undertake further graduate studies this fall as a cellist at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Anna (Laudati) Lecheltir (BA '86) was recently appointed to the Board of Realtors of Coffeyville Cultural Arts Council. A freelance writer and publicist, Anna remains musically active as a clarinetist and as a member of the First Presbyterian Church Choir. She is also director of Diet Watchers, a nutrition and diet organization. Her husband, John, is managing editor of the Coffeyville Journal.

Raymond Mannoni (BS '44) has moved to a new address in Hattiesburg, MS. He served as dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg for 30 years. Following retirement from that position, he served as chairman of the Division of Fine Arts at the University of Guam for eight years.

Katherine (Parker) Potter (BS '39, MS '65) attended the 50th reunion of the Class of '39 last year. She is enjoying traveling and other activities, including participation in Pittsburg's AARP Choir. She has four children, nine grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Katherine would love to hear from old friends. Her address: P.O. Box 38, Pittsburg, KS, 66762.

Ward Rowe (BM '89) has entered the Law School at The University of Kansas.

Kim Simmons (BME '90) has accepted a K-12 music position in the Lockwood, MO public schools.

Virginia (Cooper) Stone (BS '41) writes that, after a lifetime of teaching and playing "serious" music, she has branched out in her retirement, now playing jazz with other music colegues for dances and dinners.

Eddie Strickler (BME '46) is still playing up a storm with his Eddie Strickler Orchestra in Fresno, CA. He organized this group in 1982, fulfilling a dream he'd had to recreate the sounds of the '40s by his band in Pittsburg. The Fresno group plays vintage tunes from the '30s and '40s, interspersed with some later material as well.