Music Notes

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Summer/Fall, 2004

Choirs Tour Southeast, Meet President and Mrs. Carter

The PSU Choirs enjoyed a highly successful Spring Break tour to Georgia and South Carolina, a trip that offered a great diversity of performance experiences and other opportunities.

On March 20, the choir formed the centerpiece of an International Festival at the new Global Village and Discovery Center of Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Georgia. Over the course of the day, the choir offered two performances of music from most of the 17 countries whose Habitat-style houses are on display in the village, singing in 14 languages. Between performances, choir members had an opportunity to tour the exhibit, learn about the art of brick-making, sample the foods that were offered by vendors, watch a talented African dance troupe, and learn a good bit about the work of Habitat around the world.

On Sunday morning, March 21, the choir had the special privilege of providing music for morning worship at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia. Among the parishioners that morning were former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter. Following the service, choir members enjoyed an opportunity to meet briefly with the Carters and pose for a group photo.

The next performances, an all-school assembly and full evening concert, took place in Valdosta, Georgia. Hosted by Susan Hicks Brashier, former oboe professor at the University of Kansas, the choir shared a healthy portion of its international fare with students at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in the afternoon session. In the evening concert, Prof. Brashier and her two daughters collaborated with the choir in the premiere performance of Susan Marchant’s arrangement of *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown*, scored for oboe, English horn, bassoon, and SATB choir.

An impromptu performance occurred the next day in the high school band room in Jesup, Georgia. Making the long trek across the state from Valdosta to Hilton Head Island, the choir stopped midway in Jesup to pay a visit to Michael Augustson (MM '78), who serves the school as a band director, and who toured with the choir while he was a graduate assistant in the PSU Department of Music.

The final evening concert took place on Tuesday, March 23, in the beautiful sanctuary of All Saints Episcopal Church in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Following this rigorous schedule, the choir earned a day on the beach and/or poolside at the Westin Hotel in this famous resort community.

While the primary focus of the tour, as always, was on performance and education, it also afforded participants a good bit of time to simply be tourists in a very interesting part of the country. This included one free day in Atlanta, a visit to the National Prisoner of War Museum on the site of the Civil War prison at Andersonville, recreation in Hilton Head, and free time in Savannah, Georgia. While in Savannah, many students took part in one of the infamous “ghost walk” tours that are part of this city’s culture.

The choir would like to express its gratitude to Edward Appiah-Brafoh, PSU alum from Ghana, who provided expert advice in traditional African drumming and toured with the choir. A number of international students also offered assistance by helping to obtain music from their cultures and then helping with translation and diction coaching, either directly or through Kathryn Parke, member of the PSU music faculty, who also toured with the group.

The choir would also like to extend its thanks to the many donors and supporters who helped to make this tour possible by participating in one or more of its fundraising events over the course of the past two years. The next major tour will take place in the Spring of 2006. For more information about the PSU chorale program, contact Susan Marchant, Director of Choral Activities (smarchan@pittstate.edu).

Please enjoy the choir’s tour “postcard” on the insert page of the newsletter.

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
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. The number of majors enrolled in the Fall term reached 95, by far the largest figure in recent history. On the other end of the spectrum, we will graduate six students with undergraduate degrees in music education as well as five graduate students. Three MM in Wind Conducting, one MM in Cello Performance, and one MM in Vocal Performance are represented in these graduate degrees. Indeed, it is an exciting time for music at Pittsburg State University.

Some projects that were completed this past year include the addition of three new computer stations in the Listening Lab, the purchase of two new Adam timpani, the purchase of numerous CD’s needed to upgrade the holdings of our recording inventory, and the remodeling of the Music Office.

Projects to be completed this summer include another $71,000 of work in Kelce Auditorium (postponed from last summer), creating a mediated classroom in 318, and the purchase of two more timpani to complete the set started this past year. 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

PSU Hosts National Drum & Bugle Corps Competition Program

On Tuesday, June 22, more than 2,000 enthusiastic audience members filled seats in Carnie Smith Stadium in order to witness the Brass Spectacular drum and bugle corps show. The Brass Spectacular is part of the Drum Corps International Summer Music Games tour that leads toward its final destination, the world championships in Denver.

Doug Whitten, Director of Athletic Bands at PSU, served as coordinator for this event that brought eight exciting drum and bugle corps to southeast Kansas. The ensembles, comprised of musicians between the ages of 14 and 22 from across the country, included: the Americanos, from Menasha, Wisconsin; the Blue Knights, from Denver, Colorado; the Colts, from Dubuque, Iowa; the Glassmen, from Toledo, Ohio; the Memphis Sound, from Collierville, Tennessee; the Revolution, from San Antonio, Texas; the Troopers, from Casper, Wyoming; and the 1996 DCI world champions, the Phantom Regiment, from Rockford, Illinois.

In describing the difference between traditional marching band shows and drum corps performances, Prof. Whitten explained, “Instead of performing chants, cheers, and traditional marches, a drum corps is more likely to perform classical music, jazz, or stage a 10-minute Broadway-style musical.”

Prof. Whitten described such competitions as “the ultimate expression of power and pageantry.” From the uniformly enthusiastic reactions of the audience members to the show, it would appear that he was right. Kudos to this new faculty member for introducing such an exciting event into Pittsburg’s summer schedule!

Carol Hoyt departs from PSU Music Faculty

Carol Hoyt, lecturer in the Department of Music since 1990, has resigned from her positions in Pittsburg in order to accept a full-time elementary music position with the Parsons schools. At the time of her resignation, she held dual appointments with USD 250 and Pittsburg State University. A musician of many talents, she was the principal string instructor in the public school position, while she taught piano and headed up the Piano Pedagogy program at the university. She has been active for many years as a performer and as an officer in professional organizations such as KMTA. For a number of years, she has made a daily commute from Neodesha, where she resides with her husband, Lewis (BME ’70), who serves as director of the string program at Independence High School. Among the things that she will enjoy in her new position will be a much shorter drive to work!

Prof. Hoyt has made a huge contribution to the life of the Department during her tenure at PSU, and members of the McCray Hall family wish her the very best as she embarks on the next stage of her career.

Catalin Lari, graduate violist, rehearses Bartok Concerto with the SEK Symphony. Other winners of the 2004 Concerto & Aria Competition were soprano Jessica Dold and pianist Zia Ryu.

PSU Faculty Present American Premiere of Hungarian Songs

Jessie Wright Martin and Brian Woods, members of the PSU voice faculty, performed a recital of Hungarian songs composed by Emmerich Kálmán. Susan Marchant collaborated as pianist in the concert. This March 14 event marked the American premiere of these compositions that had been virtually lost for nearly 100 years. The music of Kálmán is the subject of Prof. Martin’s doctoral research, and both singers have had a good deal of experience singing operettas by this 19th-century composer.

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

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Chair, Department of Music

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Announcing the 2004-2005
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September 24
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For information about the Series, or to request a copy of the season brochure, contact the Department of Music: 620-235-4466
music@pittstate.edu
A Postcard from the 2004 Spring Choir Tour

12 W. Oglethorpe, the favorite "haunt" of students in Savannah

Entrance to the Global Village at Habitat for Humanity Headquarters

The infamous Spanish moss of the south

Papua-New Guinea House at the Global Village

Haiti House at the Global Village

The pool at the Hilton Head Westin before it was invaded by choir members

The Coca-Cola Museum in Atlanta
2004 Honors Convocation
Jessica Dold Awarded Schrag Prize

The 2004 Honors Convocation in the Department of Music culminated in the naming of Jessica Dold, a junior majoring in vocal music education, as the recipient of this year’s Schrag Prize. The prize, established through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Jon White in memory of Priscilla S. Schrag, is to be given to one outstanding music student who demonstrates strength of character and dedication to excellence in performance and scholarship. It was first awarded to Mark Powls in 1986. Ms. Dold, a member of the PSU Honors College, was a winner in this year’s Concerto and Aria Competition sponsored by the Southeast Kansas Symphony. She also sang the role of the mother in the university’s production Hansel and Gretel. She has been a frequent soloist with the PSU Choruses and has assumed significant leadership in the choral ensembles. Jessica has also distinguished herself as a scholar, carrying a double major in Spanish and earning recognition for excellence in music classes.

The Honors Convocation also recognized the accomplishments of many other students, citing excellence in each of the performance as well as academic areas. New inductees into the National Honor Society of Pi Kappa Lambda were named, and several non-major students were recognized for extraordinary service to their respective areas. Dr. Craig Fuchs, chairperson, read an impressive list of student achievements across the academic year. Dr. Lynette Olson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was a guest at the ceremony, and Dr. Gene Vollen, Professor and Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Music, was the featured speaker. Dr. Vollen provided an interesting account of the early years of the program under the leadership of Walter McCray, and he also traced the history of endowed scholarships for PSU music students.

academic year, Dr. Ross is currently planning the 2005 Festival of New Music, an event that will feature a variety of performances, panel discussions, and other sessions.

Brian Woods, instructor, was named alternate winner in this year’s Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions held in Kansas City. He is also featured in leading roles on two recent CD releases: as Tassilo in Kálmán’s Countess Mariza on the Operetta Archives label, and as Fairfax in Gilbert and Sullivan’s The Yeoman of the Guard on the Albany Records label.

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!

Jeremy Albright (BME ’04) is currently employed by the Crawford County Sheriff’s Office.

Jon Bartlow (BA ’99, MA’03) married Amy Smith in a ceremony at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Pittsburg, on June 26. Afterwards, Jon joined what surely must be a fairly elite club: new husbands who perform as a member of the dance band at their own reception! The couple resides in Minnesota, where Jon serves as a member of the Admission staff of Carleton College.

Deanna (Epp) Biles (att. ’75-77, ’84) joined the Little Rock Wind Symphony in October, 2003. She also plays flute in the Markham Street Baptist Church Praise Band. Deanna’s husband, Bob, is Finance Director for the city. They have three children: Catherine, recently graduated from Texas A & M; Bethany, majoring in Spanish at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia; and Jeffrey, active in Scouts and homeschooling as a high schooler.

Lacy Brant (BME ’04) will begin a teaching position at Meadowlark Elementary School, Pittsburg, this fall.

Katie Burton (BME ’04) and Kevin Miller (BME ’02, MM ’04) were joined in matrimony on July 10. The ceremony took place where the couple spent many glorious hours in recent years...on the stage of McCray Recital Hall!

Candice Coffey (BME ’03) and Jason Winnie (BGS ’03) were joined in marriage on May 29 in a ceremony that took place at First Baptist Church of Carl Junction, Missouri. The couple plans to move to Hartford, Connecticut, in order to pursue further study at the Hartt School of Music.

Gary Green (BME ’74) has completed his third year on the faculty of the Department of Theatre, Speech and Dance at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia,
teaching three levels of musical theatre performance technique, maintaining a private voice studio, directing, and musical directing/conducting.

**Gail Hamilton** (MM '78) just celebrated her 20th year as a private piano teacher. More recently, she has developed an interest in playing the autoharp. This activity took her to Hawaii for a performance in March.

**Jim Harris** (BME '77, MM '81) sent word that Garen Wolf (BME '70, MM '72) directed the Orchestra from God's Bible School in special Palm Sunday presentations at the First Church of the Nazarene, Pittsburg.

**Warren Huffman** (MM '83) returned to Pittsburg this spring in order to appear as soloist in the May 2 Voices of Light concert, a collaborative performance presented by the PSU Choirs and the Southeast Kansas Symphony. Warren sang the solos in Jonathan Willcocks's *From Darkness to Light: A Requiem of Hope*.

**Jim Jensen** (BM, MM '68) completed doctoral studies at Florida State University and currently chairs the Department of Theory and Composition in the Division of Music at Samford University. An established composer, his music has been played throughout the United States. In addition, he currently serves as Commander of the 313th Army Band.

**Susan Laushman** (MM '94) leaves a highly-successful choral program at Carl Junction, Missouri, in order to return to the Pittsburg schools. Her exciting new position in USD 250 will include the direction of the high school choral program and duties as a fine arts coordinator for the district.

**Wen-Hsuan Lu** (MM, '03 and '04) will begin doctoral study in choral conducting this fall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Hsuan earned graduate degrees in both choral conducting and vocal performance during her three years of graduate work at PSU.

**Kevin Miller** (BME '02, MM '04) will begin a teaching position at Humboldt High School this fall.

**Michael Oglesby** (BME '99, MM '04) sends word of the birth of their second child, Ethan Michael, on June 5, 2003. Michael completed a master's degree in wind conducting at PSU this past May.

**Janus (Broome) Rue** (BSE '40) has sent a wonderful, detailed history of her life as a musician over the past 64 years. With majors in violin and voice, Janus taught public school music, directed church choirs, taught privately, and played with various community orchestras in Chanute and Topeka before moving to La Mesa, California in 1952. She and her husband, **Robert** (BSE '40), completed graduate degrees and taught in Southern California schools for many years, with trips to Europe in order to teach (Dependent Schools in Stuttgart) and study (Orff-Schulwerk in Munich). Other professional activities included Robert's membership in the San Diego Symphony and Janus's work with Robert Shaw. The Rues raised two children, one of whom likewise pursued a musical career as a cellist with the San Diego Symphony. Following Robert's death in 1974, Janus continued to teach until 1983, and then worked as a consultant until 1989. Janus writes with fond memories of her years in Pittsburg, and she expresses deep gratitude for the mentors she had here, noting particularly her work with Dr. Walter McCray and Rhetia Hesselburg.

**Angie Shelton** (BME '91) appeared on a special edition of the CBS program *48 Hours* in March, a program that focused on a research project dealing with women across the country who share the name Angela Shelton.

**Angela Stansberry** (BM '96) has departed from her position with the Lamar, Missouri, schools. Her new post will be in Girard, Kansas, where she will teach middle school general music and choir. She will also serve as director for two high school musicals per year.

**Pat** (MM '89) and **Michelle** (BME '86) **Sweeten** have moved to Chesapeake, Virginia. Pat will attend the Senior Musician Course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia, and Michelle plans to teach music in the Virginia Beach School District.

**Shawna Terrell** (BME '03) is about to begin her second year of teaching in the Caney School District. This year, however, she will take on the responsibility of directing all of the school's choirs. Her husband, T.J. (att. '97-'00), continues as assistant manager of the Wal-Mart store in Independence.

**Woody Watson** (BA '84, MM '86) writes that he is running his own repair/restoration business. He also plays bar sax in the Bonner Springs Kicks Band.

**Patsy Blair Wade** (BM '68, MM '71) writes that she has a new position at Heritage Greens Arboretum in Greensboro, North Carolina, working as Health Strides Director in an Alzheimer's Unit. She and her husband, Don, wanted to spend their retirement years in that state.

**Casiee Wolfe** (BME '04) and her husband, **Eric** (BS '04) have moved north to the Kansas City area, where Casiee plans to teach music and Eric will enter medical school.

**John Womeldorf** (BME '01) and his wife, Sherri, proudly announce the birth of their secondchild, Mallory Grace, on May 5 in Girard, Kansas.