In previous articles, I have referred to Walter McCray as the principal founder of the Department of Music at Pittsburg State. This is true in that he was charged by President Brandenburg to build a comprehensive music program and that we can trace a continuous line of development from that day to the present. There was, however, a department of music prior to 1914. Even from 1903, with the establishment of the university, music courses were part of the curriculum. These were, for the most part, performance groups that were directed by faculty members whose major responsibilities lay elsewhere. In 1905, music courses became a part of the requirement for certification (or licensing, as it was known in those days), and Edwin A. Shepardson was named Director of Musical Activities. This is also the first time we see the designation “Department of Music” in print. Shepardson served in that capacity until 1909, when C. Guy Hoover became Director of Music. The department was slightly expanded in 1912, with Helen H. Roberts being named Assistant in Music.

Hoover and Roberts taught “by contract” in that they were paid according to the number of students they taught. This may be the reason why Hoover left when President Brandenburg took over the leadership of the institution in 1914. Hoover was asked to accept a salary that he felt would produce less than he had received through contract teaching. It is possible that he had other reasons as well, since he moved to Chicago and began to publish music texts for use in the public schools. It is for these textbooks that the name C. Guy Hoover is remembered today. The shift from contract teaching to salary strongly supports the concept that Brandenburg intentionally developed the music program as part of his agenda to expand the mission of the institution. Dr. Robert Ratzlaff, PSU Vice-President for Academic Affairs and a noted historian, points out that Brandenburg realized that both music and athletics had the potential to attract public attention; their move to prominence in 1914 signals a turning point in the direction of the development of the institution.

McCray immediately set out to fulfill Brandenburg's expectations by adding faculty members whose expertise would complement his own and who could help form the nucleus of a comprehensive music program. This was the era in which the performance of and the academic study of music was first being combined in state universities. This amalgamation of the “conservatory” and the “academy” was not easily accomplished, and there were many missteps along the way. Brandenburg was, in a sense, a visionary whose thinking pre-dated the movement which was not totally accomplished until after the Second World War. Even in the 1950s and '60s, a spate of articles was published which indicated that not everyone agreed that this was a good thing.

McCray, in establishing a foundation for the music program, added instruction in violin and piano by hiring Rhetta Hesselberg as professor of violin (1914-1949) and Gertrude Concannon-Bannister as instructor in piano (1914-1919). In the next year, McCray added May Beesley Adam, instructor in voice (1915-1916), Margaret Leavitt, instructor in piano (1915-1919), and Edith Bideau, instructor in voice (1915-1919). From this beginning, the faculty and its course offerings were gradually expanded with a music education specialist, a pipe organist, and a woodwind instrumentalist being added in 1918, etc.

John Sehnert (MM '91), in completing his thesis on Walter McCray and the development of the music program at Pittsburg State, added an appendix in which he included a list of those who have served on the music faculty until 1991. We are continually updating this list and working to answer some of the remaining questions concerning rank, date of departure, and other details where the record is not clear. The list is available in the Axle Library and in McCray Hall for anyone who would like to make an examination. It is interesting to see the notables who, through their teaching and by the example they have set, have become part of the tradition and heritage that creates a unique endowment for the music program at Pittsburg State University.
STUDENTS SHINE IN COMPETITIONS

PSU vocal students did a superb job of competing at this year’s NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) regional auditions held in Wichita, October 29-31. The NATS Central Region includes the states of Kansas, Colorado, Montana, and Nebraska.

Sophomore Angela Shoup, of Carl Junction, MO, took first place in her division, and Michael Brandel, junior from Shawnee, KS, placed third in his division. Alicia Davis, a first-year student from Ft. Worth, TX, completed the list of regional finalists for PSU, taking 5th place in her division. Beth England, a senior from Caney, KS, and Carey Cahill, a freshman from Bartlesville, OK, were selected as semi-finalists. All five singers are students of Prof. Paul Huybrechts.

Harpichordist Marie Rubis, a non-degree-seeking graduate student, took third place honors in the final round of the National Harpsichord Playing Competition sponsored by the University of Kansas this fall. In addition to a cash prize, this success carries with it the privilege of representing the United States in the finals of the International Harpsichord Playing Competition, to be held at the Chopin Conservatory of Music in Warsaw, Poland next April. Ms. Rubis, who holds a DMA degree in organ performance from the University of Kansas, has studied harpsichord with PSU faculty member Susan Marchant since 1985.

JAZZ NEWS

A dozen students from the PSU chapter of IAJE (International Association of Jazz Educators), attended the annual convention of the organization in San Antonio this past January.

Prof. Robert Kehle, director of jazz studies, reports that he and his students are gearing up for the 19th Annual PSU Jazz Festival, to be held on March 12. This day-long event offers band adjudication, improvisation sessions and other clinics, and culminates in an evening performance by the PSU Jazz Ensemble with a special guest soloist. This year’s artist will be Joe Davis, of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK. For additional information about this year’s festival, contact Prof. Kehle at 316/235-4474.

'93 OPERA: A G & S FAVORITE

The 1993 PSU Opera production will be the long-time Gilbert & Sullivan favorite, Patience. Set in late 19th-century Britain, this hilarious comedy pokes fun at the ease with which we humans are impressed by the “artistic,” the “intellectual,” and ... the good-looking! The show will feature a cast of ten principal characters as well as twenty lovesick maidens and a host of dragoons. Performances are set for Friday, February 19 (8 pm) and Sunday, February 21 (3 pm) at Pittsburg's Memorial Auditorium. Tickets will be available in advance or at the door. For further information about this season's opera production, contact Prof. Paul Huybrechts, director, at 316/235-4472.

PITTSBURG HOSTS KMEA

Pittsburg played host to the Kansas Music Educators Association District II Mini-Convention on Saturday, December 5. Dozens of music teachers and hundreds of music students from 30 area high schools travelled to Pittsburg for a full day of meetings, rehearsals, and auditions. The District Honor Ensembles rehearsed in three venues—Memorial Auditorium, First United Methodist Church, and McCray Hall—and then assembled at Memorial Auditorium for the highlight of the annual event, the evening concert.

Guest clinicians for the day included James Starr, orchestra; James Schuppener, choir; and Richard Page, band. District II President Becky Blaes (BM, BME '83) presided over the convention, and the ensemble activities were chaired by Judy Jones (BME '72, MM '79), orchestra; Marilyn O'Shield (BME '78, MM '86) and James Tapia, band; and Susan Marchant, choir.

Faculty Briefs...

Paul Carlson, professor, will perform solo violin recitals, appear with orchatas, and present master classes as part of a month-long residency this coming July in Paraguay, South America. This residency is sponsored by an association known as Kansas-Paraguay Partners.

Karen Dannessa, assistant professor, has been invited to perform a solo recital at the 1993 University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium, to be held in Norman during June. She will be accompanied by PSU faculty pianist Lori Kehle.

Russell Jones, professor, authored an article entitled "Effects of Verbal and Verbal-Motor Responses on Meter Conceptualization in Third-, Fourth-, and Fifth-Grade Children." The article was published in the Journal of Research in Music Education, No.40, Fall, 1992. He also joined the Springfield (Missouri) Symphony as bassoonist for the ensemble's concert on November 14.

Robert Kehle, associate professor, will perform as a member of KITE (Kansans Invitational Trombone Ensemble) at this year's gathering of the Kansas Music Educators Association in Wichita.

Susan Marchant, associate professor, has been named to a two-year term as president-elect of District II of the Kansas Music Educators Association. Her schedule of second semester performances includes a solo organ recital at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts, as well as a concert at Culver-Stockton College in Missouri with the Early Music Consort, an ensemble for which she serves as co-director.

Stephen Taylor, assistant professor, has quickly been swept into the mainstream of activities in his first semester as a member of the PSU music faculty, having performed as hornist with the PSU Faculty Brass Quintet; as pianist in the premiere of a new composition, Fragments, by PSU student composer, Tung-Lung Lin; and as bassist with the PSU Jazz Combo and Jazz Choir. He has been no less busy in his principal work as a composer. His chamber orchestra piece, Mêbasi, received a performance at the Oberlin Conservatory last October. The spring semester will bring about several premieres of new works, including a choral piece, Beginnrs, based on a poem by Denise Levertov, to be performed by the Pittsburg State University Choir, and Cyclonic Skies, a work for oboe and piano, to be performed in Boston this May.
Calendar of Events

January
11 Enrollment
12 Enrollment
13 Classes begin
17 Faculty Recital, Susan Marchant, organ, 3 pm
23 Senior Recital, Brian Giacomo, trumpet, 5 pm
26 Clarinet Masterclass, Bill Jackson
31 *Southeast Kansas Symphony, with guest artist William Doppsmann, Memorial Auditorium, 3 pm

February
2 *Solo & Chamber Music Series, William Doppsmann, piano, 8 pm
5 Graduate Recital, Kathleen Coffee, soprano, 7 pm
6 A.G.O. Young Organists Academy, 9 am-2 pm
11 University Band, 8 pm
18 Music Scholarship Audition Day, all day
19 *Opera production, Patience, Memorial Auditorium, 8 pm
21 *Opera production, Patience, Memorial Auditorium, 3 pm
23 Guest Recital, Warren Huffman, baritone, 8 pm

March
2 *Solo & Chamber Music Series, Terry Sawchuk, trumpet, 8 pm
7 Student Recital, Carol Hoyt and Steven Edmund, duo pianists, 3 pm
12 19th Annual Jazz Festival, all day
12 PSU Jazz Ensemble, 8 pm
14 *University Choirs, Centennial Choir, SEK Symphony, Duruflé Requiem, First United Methodist Church, 3 pm
15 +Jazz Combo at McCarthy’s, 9 pm-midnight
16 Faculty/Student Chamber Music Recital, 8 pm
18 University Band, 8 pm
19 Music Scholarship Audition Day, all day
30 Faculty Recital, Kathryn Parke, soprano, 8 pm

April
2 +Jazz Ensemble at McCarthy’s, 9 pm-midnight
3 Regional Festival, 4A-6A Schools
5 Student Recital, Nikola Babic, viola, 8 pm
13 Collegium Musicum, 8 pm
16 Waddill Chamber Music Competition
17 *Guest Recital, The Early Music Consort, 8 pm
20 Waddill Competition Winners Concert, 8 pm
22 Senior Recital, Joy Khoo, piano, 8 pm
23 Senior Recital, Robert Jenkins, organ, 8 pm
24 Mid-America Music Festival, all day
25 Music Preparatory Division Recital, 3 pm
26 Senior Recital, Brad Enrich, percussion, 8 pm
27 Graduate Recital, Edward Good, organ, 8 pm
29 Jazz Ensemble, 8 pm
30 University Choirs, 8 pm

May
2 *Southeast Kansas Symphony, McCray Recital Hall, 3 pm
6 Four-State Band Festival, all day
9 Suzuki Strings Recital, 3 pm
15 Commencement

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

*Cover charge.

All events take place in McCray Recital Hall unless noted otherwise. Please consult local news media for any changes in the above information and/or for additions to the calendar.

CHOIRS TO PRESENT DURUFLÉ REQUIEM

The University Choirs will join forces with the Pittsburg Centennial Choir this spring for a performance of Maurice Duruflé’s Requiem. This attractive work, reminiscent in many ways of Fauré’s Requiem, has taken its place alongside other important 20th-century settings of the text as a major piece of choral repertoire. The Southeast Kansas Symphony will also participate in this performance, set for 3 pm on Sunday, March 14 at Pittsburg’s First United Methodist Church. Tickets will be available in advance or at the door. For additional information, contact Dr. Susan Marchant, director of choral activities, at 316/235-4476.

ALUMNI:
Can you help us?

In an attempt to update our records, we are searching for information about alumni with whom we have lost touch. Included in the list below are alumni from the ’60s who fall into this category. If you have any information whatsoever about these persons, would you please take a moment to report back to us on the attached update form? Thank you!

Edward L. Beaty, BM ’67
Clare B. Blanet, BME ’64
Loren A. Clough, MS ’67
Melford O. Courter, Jr., MS ’62
Linda M. (Demaree) Dickerson, BME ’69
Barbara K. (Rogers) Dorris, BME ’70
Hal F. Durr, BME ’66
Michael T. Elliott, BME ’62
Harold L. Hampton, Jr., BME ’60
Cheryl J. (Zimmerman) Haulton, BME ’68
Aleta S. (Wehrman) Hintz, BME ’65
Martha G. (Pinnell) Irwin, MS ’67
Francell James, BM ’64
Russell E. Johnston, BME ’64
Richard R. Messenger, BM ’67
Maxyne M. (Scott) Schott, MS ’67
Gary L. Smith, BM ’61
Barbara A. (Brown) Thornburgh, BME ’66
Carter L. Windham, BME ’60

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Gene Vollen
Chairman, Department of Music

Susan Marchant,
Newsletter Editor
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!

Diana Allan (BM, BME '81), soprano, writes that she is working on a doctoral degree at the University of Texas, Austin. She is active as a performer elsewhere in the state, too, recent appearances including a highly-acclaimed performance of Handel's Messiah with the Laredo Philharmonic and Chorale, and a solo recital at the University of Texas, San Antonio, where she is a member of the music faculty. Her students distinguished themselves at this fall's NATS competition, where two of them took first place in their divisions, and two others won second place.

William Browning (BM '47) is, it seems, busier than ever and very much in demand as a recitalist/accompanist/adjudicator. This past summer, he judged the Saint Charles International Piano Competition. February will witness another performance at Notre Dame University. In April, he'll present concerts and master classes in Korea, a country where every major piano department is headed by a Browning student. Upon returning to this country, Bill will team up with Georgine Resick of the Paris Opera for concerts at the National Gallery and elsewhere.

Kevin Derrick (BM, BME '90), after several years of public school teaching, has begun graduate studies in music. He is working on a degree in piano performance at the University of Arkansas.

Mike Fisher (BME '80), continues in his position as lecturer of tuba and euphonium at Baylor University. He will present a clinic at the Texas Music Educators Association meetings in February.

Ruth Kern-Hanke (MM '90) was married to Jurgen Hanke on July 6 at Estes Park, CO. The couple resides in Independence, KS, where Ruth is active on the Booth Theater Restoration Committee.

Carla Henson (BME '77) is serving as conductor of the Riverton, KS Community Orchestra. Appearing as guest artists on the orchestra's December 13 concert were PSU faculty members Paul Carlson and James Poulos, who performed Bach's Concerto in D minor for two violins and orchestra.

Warren Huffman (MM '83), baritone, will return to Pittsburg for a guest recital on February 23. His program will include works of Bach, Ravel, Vaughan Williams, and others.

Nancy Jones (MS '62) assembled a program entitled "Gems from the Thuenemann Library" and oversaw its presentation on October 30 at the Swinney Conservatory of Music at Central Methodist College in Fayette, MO, where she is a member of the vocal faculty. The concert featured student singers and accompanied, and the music ranged from familiar repertoire to that which is seldom heard and/or out of print. All of the material is housed in what was Miss Thuenemann's personal library, which, upon her retirement, she presented to Nancy. The library currently contains music owned by five generations of voice teachers.

Angela Shelton (BME '91) is in her first year of teaching in the Herington, KS schools, USD #135. Angie is responsible for instrumental instruction, grades 5-12, as well as the high school vocal program.

Robert Smith (BME '80), tenor, who has begun singing major roles in German opera houses, returned to southeast Kansas this past summer for his marriage to Janice Harper. The ceremony took place in Chetopa on August 29.

Mike Straw (MM '81) is currently director of music activities at Columbia College in Columbia, MO, and is also serving as director of music at Broadway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Mike hopes to complete his PhD in music education this spring. He is engaged to Melissa Lock, a vocal music teacher, and the couple is planning a July wedding.

Iraeine Swain (BME '70, MM '72), soprano, presented a recital at the Harlem Performing Arts Center in New York City on August 12. She was accompanied by pianist Michel Singher.

Rick Walker (BME '86) is stationed in a Navy band based in Japan. He is playing lead trombone in a 17-piece big band that has toured Russia, Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines.

Obituary

Enid E. Dechario (BS '29), August 1, 1992, in Girard, KS. Mrs. Dechario taught music in the Arma public schools for several years following graduation. She is remembered in Girard community for her distinguished service of more than 40 years as organist for the United Methodist Church. Her memberships included the Girard Music Club and P.E.O.