School of Music Welcomes New Director

In addition to a number of recently hired faculty members, the School of Music at the University of Florida is pleased to be joined this summer by our new director, John A. Duff. Though he has held administrative positions in the past, including that of the Director of the School of Music at Southwest Texas State University and Head of the Department of Music at Western Kentucky University, Dr. Duff is quite excited about his move to UF for a number of reasons, not least of which are the opportunities the position will afford him.

“It will be an excellent opportunity for me,” he said in a recent interview. “I’ve primarily been associated with regional institutions, but UF is one of national stature. It will give me an opportunity to work with some really outstanding faculty and a doctoral program.”

Originally from the Northwest, Dr. Duff received his undergraduate training at the University of Washington in Seattle where he studied both conducting and trombone. After five years of teaching in the public schools in Eastern Washington, he left for Michigan State University where he continued his trombone studies while earning his Master of Music and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Prior to his time at Western Kentucky University, Dr. Duff taught for eleven years at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

With over twenty-five years of conducting experience, Dr. Duff has also worked with a wide variety of bands and orchestras during his career. He has conducted in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, Michigan, Kentucky and Great Britain. Further, from 1995 until 2000, Dr. Duff served as Music Director and Conductor of the Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra in Kentucky.

As far as his new position is concerned, Dr. Duff is eager to face the challenges offered by UF’s growing School of Music, including those of improving the facilities and furthering the schools’ excellent academic reputation. He stresses, however, that the task is certainly not his alone, but for everyone who cares about the program.

“I’m going to be interested in receiving a great deal of feedback from faculty and students.” I’m quite readily accessible and people can reach me when the need arises,” he said. “I’m really excited about this opportunity and am looking forward to getting to know the faculty and students to develop a working relationship so that we can move together into the future.”
Serving as Interim Director of the School of Music for the 2001-2002 academic year has been a demanding, but very rewarding experience.

I always thought that running the "Pride of the Sunshine" was time consuming, but compared to the job of Interim Director, it doesn't even come close. It seems that there is an end to the football season but the paperwork "season" is never-ending. Although that aspect of the job is not number one on my list, the opportunity to work more closely with faculty, staff and students certainly is. Although I have been here for 30+ years, (yes, Virginia there is retirement in the future), it is only from the Director's chair that a person can really understand and appreciate the scope of the School of Music and the accomplishments that are contained therein.

The list of accomplishments for the 2001-2002 academic year is long and varied and one that all of us here and you, as alumni, can be justifiably proud of. Student achievements include: book publication, papers presented and awards won at regional conferences, performances at regional and national conventions, placement in national vocal and instrumental competitions, and compositions premiered at national and international society meetings.

Faculty have distinguished themselves in every field of musical endeavor and in service to the music profession. (Please keep in mind that these accomplishments are only for the 2001-2002 academic year.)

Thirteen of our faculty hold offices in, or are serving on the boards of national and international organizations, including the American Liszt Society, Society of Composers, Inc., American Orff-Schulwerk Association and the American Choral Directors Association, to name but a few.

In the area of publication, faculty have published books, articles, compositions and arrangements. This includes choral music, instrumental music, CDs, electroacoustic compositions and reviews appearing in national journals.

Our faculty have been invited and presented papers, concerts and lectures at over 20 national and international society conferences in England, Ireland, Brazil, Germany, Australia, Russia and here in the US. These have included the College Music Society, North American Saxophone Alliance, American Choral Directors Association, American Musico logical Society and the College Band Directors National Association.

Performances on campus and off, number over 200, in the role of soloists, chamber music performers, conductors, and ensemble members. Faculty have traveled to the Dominican Republic, Russia, England, Ireland, Argentina and Israel to present concerts and master classes.

Needless to say, I am extremely proud of the aforementioned. All of these activities are always in addition to the regular (and heavy) teaching load that the faculty maintain and the full schedules of our students. As you will note in other areas of this newsletter, we have added four new faculty to our family. Their credentials are outstanding and we are very pleased and excited to have them on board.

Lastly, I am VERY pleased (as is my wife, Elaine) that Dr. John Duff has accepted the position of Director of the School of Music. As I return to my position as Assistant Director, I am looking forward to a long and productive relationship that will result in the School of Music achieving its goals and dreams for the future.
Brenda Smith  Assistant Professor

As far as general health care in North Central Florida is concerned, Shands Hospital is leaps and bounds ahead of the University of Florida’s School of Music. Nevertheless, though you may not find any medical doctors here, the School of Music is quickly gaining a reputation for its healthy approach to the human voice. This is due in large part to one of the School’s newest faculty members, Assistant Professor Brenda Smith.

Internationally known for her contributions to the concept of lifelong singing through proper voice care, Dr. Smith brings to the School of Music a great deal of knowledge and experience gained from her extensive work as a consultant, clinician, and conductor. Further, through studies in Europe, as well as professional translation work, she has become an expert on language and diction, especially German.

Last year, after being honored with the Van Lawrence Award by the Voice Foundation and the National Association of Teachers of Singing for her work in vocal pedagogy and science, Dr. Smith had the unique opportunity to study at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden with one of the world’s leading experts on the acoustics of the singing voice.

While her primary responsibilities at UF include teaching voice studio, diction, and vocal pedagogy, Dr. Smith is also working with professionals from several other campus departments to make our university one of the few in the nation recognized for the ability to provide proper diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation to singers who have injured their voices.

“We need this kind of interdisciplinary cooperation because voice teachers can’t do everything,” she says. “We’re trying very hard to work together so that everyone can benefit. We want to help people sing longer in a healthier way.”

Jennifer Thomas  Assistant Professor

For Assistant Professor Jennifer Thomas, a recently hired musicologist in the School of Music at the University of Florida, musical beginnings are especially important. It is not surprising, therefore, that much of the knowledge and experience she brings to UF is in the burgeoning field of early music, specifically that of the Renaissance, making her feel right at home in the School of Music’s growing musicology area.

In fact, Dr. Thomas realized during her initial visit that the UF School of Music was exactly where she wanted and needed to be: “I thought that this was a place in a dynamic state of flux where I could be a real part of the change. I felt like there was room for my strengths here,” she says. “In addition, the students and faculty were a major attraction.”

Along with teaching both general music history courses and those with an emphasis on early music, Dr. Thomas has a strong desire to foster new methodologies and procedures for musicological research, including those that emphasize the use of primary sources.

As an early music scholar, Dr. Thomas has a particular interest in the sixteenth-century motet, which she regards as an effective vehicle for investigating a broad spectrum of topics in the musical culture of the Renaissance. “Not only is she the author of an electronic database containing the most comprehensive catalogue of the Renaissance motet in existence, but she also envisions the opportunity for interdisciplinary studies at UF in a variety of early music fields.

“It is possible there could be some very interesting projects there,” she says. “We can learn a lot from the methodologies of other disciplines.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Clarinet Studio member, Abby Goldstein, placed 1st chair in the Florida Intercollegiate Band at the 2002 FMEA Conference in Tampa.

Gabriel Fielder, recipient of a 2001 University Scholars Program Award, conducted All-District High School Clarinet Ensemble on December 16, 2001 in the UMA.

Frederick Key Smith, Doctoral Fellow in Musicology, will be presenting several papers this spring, including “The Danish Past and the Music of J. P. E. Hartmann” at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference in Savannah, Georgia; “Smoke into Sound: An Overview of the Electro-Acoustic Music of Kaija Saariaho” at the Eleventh Annual Florida Electroacoustic Music Festival in Gainesville, Florida; and “Mozart, Mercadante, and the Flute” as part of the University of Florida’s Musicology Lecture Series. His book, Nordic Art Music: From the Middle Ages to the Third Millennium, is scheduled for release by Praeger Publishers, a division of the Greenwood Publishing Group, in July 2002. He was also recently named the Series Editor of Praeger’s 8-volume publication Western Art Music (2004). In addition, Smith’s name will appear in the 2001-2002 edition of Who’s Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges.
DR. PAUL BASLER’S (FRENCH HORN) Triathlon for solo horn was the required second round work for the professional division of the American Horn Competition this past August. The work was commissioned expressly for the competition. He performed a faculty recital with guest artist John Drew (Professor of Trombone at FSU) both here and in Tallahassee. In October and November, Dr. Basler performed 7 concerts with the Valdosta Symphony, was a soloist with the UF Choral Festival and the SCI Conference, and served on the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Grants panel in Baltimore. This fall Dr. Basler received 5 commissions for works for chorus and wind ensemble. The pieces are now published by Colla Voce Music and Carl Fischer. He performed his new Hodie Christus Natus Est in Greensboro in December with the UNCG Concert Choir and on E-Jazz News.

PROFESSOR WILLIS BODINE (ORGAN AND CARILLON) appeared in Fall 2001 as organist for the annual Sounds of the Season performances, for convocations of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and College of Business Administration, and during campus-wide September 11 observances. Under a College of Fine Arts Scholarship Enhancement Fund grant, he compiled materials gathered during visits to towns and organs in Germany where J. S. Bach worked, composed, and performed. Highlights included playing the large Hildebrand organ in Naumburg which Bach and Gottfried Silbermann examined in 1746, and the tiny historic organ in Dornheim where Bach was married for the first time. With his wife Anna, he was also able to visit sixteen communities from which their respective forebears had emigrated to Texas and Iowa in the 1840s. In September 2001, Prof. Bodine coordinated the residency of New York organist Cameron Carpenter, with a series of master classes, lecture-demonstrations and a brilliant recital. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of WUFT-FM, “Classic 89,” Bodine wrote Twain Ten Fanfares (Toccata, Variations and Fugue for Cast-Bell Carillon), and gave preview and premiere performances in live broadcasts on September 26 and 27. The work was also televised by WFSU-TV for later broadcast as part of a feature segment of Florida Crossroads on Campus. Bodine’s new setting of Psalm 100, Jubilate Deo, for voices with handbells, brasses, timpani and organ, commissioned by First Lutheran Church of Gainesville, was premiered during Reformation Day services on October 28th, with the composer conducting. With the Willis Bodine Chorale, Bodine conducted two Messiah performances from the harpsichord, with Baroque ornamentation and continuo realization.

PROFESSOR MITCHELL ESTRIN (CLARINET) traveled to New York City in December to record the soundtrack for Disney Pictures upcoming feature film, The Rookie. His recent collaboration with singer, Natalie Merchant, entitled Motherland was released on Elektra Records in October. In November, he conducted the University of Florida Clarinet Ensemble when the ensemble performed at Buchholz High School and the P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School. Professor Estrin recently signed a new, exclusive two-year contract as a Performing Artist & Product Development Consultant with the Vandoren Company of Paris, France. His endorsement of the new Vandoren M15 Clarinet Mouthpiece has been featured in the International Musician and on E-Jazz News.

SARAH “SALLY” BAIRD FOUSE (FLUTE), UF Professor Emeritus, was recently inducted into the Carl A. Lampert Hall of Fame. She was one of four candidates who received this honor bestowed by the University Kentucky School of Music.

ARTHUR JENNINGS (TROMBONE) and Kevin Sharpe (PIANO) teamed up with Cliff Newton, principal trumpet of the Jacksonville Symphony in September and October of 2001 and presented recitals at Stetson University, Florida State University, and in UF’s Memorial Auditorium. The recitals featured world premiere performances of Sonata Ritrovata for Trombone and Piano by UF Professor Emeritus John White and Contrasts in Blue by Howard Buss. In January 2002, Associate Professor Jennings performed in the world premiere of Falko Steinbach’s “Agnesmesse” at the St. Agnes Kirche in Cologne, Germany. The work was composed and performed in commemoration of the church’s 100th anniversary and in memory of Nikolaus Gross, a prominent member of the parish who was executed by the Nazi’s in 1944 for his resistance efforts. Jennings also taught a masterclass and lessons at the Staatliche Hochschule fuer Musik in Trossingen, Germany.

DR. DAVID KUSHNER was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Nineteenth-Century Studies Association and the Southern Chapter of the College Music Society. He has presented a paper on “Multiculturalism in the Music of William Grant Still” at the International Conference on Social Sciences in Honolulu, Hawaii in June 2002; this paper is scheduled for publication in the August issue of The American Music Teacher. Additionally, Dr. Kushner presented a paper on “Religious Ambiguity in the Life and Music of Ernest Bloch” at the International Jewish Music Conference at the University of London and at the American Musicological Society Southern Chapter Conference in February 2002 at Florida State University. He presented a paper on “Paganini and Liszt: The Spectacle and Spectacular in Victorian Society at the International “Locating the Victorians” conference at Imperial College, London in Summer 2001. Additional papers presented include “John Powell: His Racial and Cultural Ideologies” at the national meeting of the College Music Society in Santa Fe NM in November 2001 and at the CMS Southern Chapter Conference at Union University, Jackson, TN in Spring 2002. With Ph.D. Graduate Teaching Assistant, Sonya Gable-Wilson, Dr. Kushner presented lecture-recitals on “The Plantation Songs of Stephen Foster” at the Stephen Foster Cultural Center in White Hall.
Springs, FL and at the national convention of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association in Savannah. Dr. Kushner presented his “Recitals in the Schools” program for the Jr. Science, Engineering, and Humanities Symposium, sponsored by the UF Center for Pre-Collegiate Education, on campus in February 2002. Dr. Kushner is the author of the articles on Bloch, Blitzstein, Weinberger, John Powell, and T. Scott Huston in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (2001) and *The Ernest Bloch Companion* (Greenwood, 2002), which has been accepted for publication in the refereed international musicological journal *Orbis Musicate* based at Tel-Aviv University.

**DR. KEVIN ORR (PIANO)** gave solo performances in the fall semester, 2001, at the University of Florida, Miami-Dade Community College, and at Douglas Anderson School for the Arts in Jacksonville, where he also presented a masterclass. Collaborative performances included a concert at UF with Dr. Joyce Davis, and a performance at the Florida State Music Teachers Association Conference with Dr. Kenneth Broadway (PERCUSSION), premiering a work by Dr. Paul Richards (COMPOSITION). Dr. Orr also served as an adjudicator for the Collegiate Piano Concerto Competition at the conference.

**GAIL ROBERTSON (TUBA-EUPHONIUM)** was invited to be the first and only female euph-tuba member of “Symphonia,” the premier college professor tuba-euphonium ensemble. She also was on their most recent CD recorded this past May at Indiana University. Gail hosted and conducted a TUBACHRISTMAS in Winter Park, Florida in December. She was featured artist and massed ensemble conductor/arranger at the 19th Army Tuba-Euphonium Conference held in Ft. Myers, Florida on January 24-27, 2002. Touring with Keith Brion’s New Sousa Band in Ft. Myers, Florida January 27-30, 2002. Is judging FBA Solo and Ensemble Festivals in February. Will be featured soloist with the Buchholz High School Band in Atlanta at the CBDNA conference February 22. Will tour Michigan with the Sousa Band in May, is Coordinator of the Artist level Euphonium competition, will give an arranger’s workshop, and perform again with Symphonia at the International Tuba and Euphonium Conference this summer in Greensboro, N.C. Gail will also be judging the Leonard Falcone Tuba and Euphonium Competition this summer at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, MI, and will be performing and teaching at Interlochen as part of the Symphonia Workshop.

**DR. RUSSELL L. ROBINSON,** Area Head for Music Education, is in his 18th year in the School of Music. In the 2001-2002 year, he conducted honor choirs in Pennsylvania, Idaho and Florida. Dr. Robinson has appeared at the following conventions as an invited clinician to do workshops on Creative Rehearsal Techniques in the Choral Classroom (based on his nationally distributed video), *Choral Warm Ups* (based on his two publications “The Complete Choral Warm Up Book” and “Warm Ups by the Dozen”), *Jazz Style and Improvisation for Choirs*, and Choral Music for Band Directors: the Texas Music Educators Association, West Virginia Music Educators Association, Illinois Music Educators Association, Connecticut Music Educators Association, Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, California Music Educators Association, Virginia Music Educators Association, Oklahoma Choral Directors Association, and the National MENC convention in Nashville TN. He had over 30 choral arrangements published this past year by Warner Bros., Carl Fischer Pub., Alfred Pub., and Shawnee Press. In the Summer of 2002, he will conduct workshops for teachers in Oklahoma, Indiana, Missouri, Georgia and Connecticut. Dr. Robinson has recently been invited to be the major music clinician for the European Council of International Schools in Berlin Germany in the Fall of 2002. Graduates from the UF Music Education program continue to be placed upon graduation in successful teaching positions throughout the country. Dr. Robinson states, “Our music education students are extremely bright and fine musicians. They are excited to be at UF to study with our nationally and internationally recognized music faculty and play in our outstanding ensembles. School districts across the country come to us to recruit our graduates for their music teaching positions.”

**DR. BROOKS WHITEHOUSE (CELLO)** has performed widely in Florida. He appeared as soloist with the Central Florida Symphony in October, and in the same month as a chamber musician at the Jacksonville Friday Musicale with Aaron and Mary Lou Krosnick and members of the Jacksonville Symphony. He performed this fall at the Cellobration festival in Miami, the SCI conference in Gainesville, the Florida State Music Teachers Association 2001 Conference in Tampa, and in January at Jacksonville University’s Terry Concert Hall. This past February his ensemble Guild Trio performed the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Wichita Falls Symphony in Texas, and continue on to a tour in Arkansas. Dr. Whitehouse recently accepted a position at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

**DR. BRENDA SMITH (VOICE)** conducted a session entitled: “What to know before you go: vocal health issues for student teachers,” for the college chapters of the Florida ACDA Conference at Stetson University November 2001. An article on the child’s voice was accepted by the SIDS Newsletter, a publication of the American Speech and Hearing Association. She was also a contributing author to the book: *Managing Vocal Health*, Caldwell Publishing, Sept. 2001.
James Ackman (’98, Ph.D.) has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Bands, and Director of Percussion Studies at Pittsburgh State University, KS. He also held positions as Assistant Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Rhode Island and Assistant Director of Bands at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Barney Cuddington (’72 BME) (’73 MME University of Kansas) retired from North Marion High School in May 2000 after 27 years. He was Marion County Teacher of the Year in 1989 and was a Golden Apple (top five) in 2000. He still resides in Gainesville with his wife Pat and is currently a member of the Gainesville Brass Quintet and Gainesville Community Band. He has a private studio for low brass and works part time at the UF Golf Course. He spends as much time as possible with his two grandchildren, ages four and six.

Tamyra F. DiFruscio (’96 BME) is the Band Director at Northport Middle School and the Assistant Director at Martin County High School. She is also Adjunct Faculty at Indian River Community College.

Jason Dobson (’91 BME) is currently the Music Director at Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High School and is the Adjunct Professor of Trombone at Santa Fe Community College.

Leslie Driscoll Davis (’96 BME) was married in 2000 and is teaching kindergarten at Destin Elementary School in Destin, FL.

David Edmund (’93 BME) is currently teaching at Ruskin Elementary School and was Teacher of the Year for 2001-2002. He is heading a federally funded school band program for "at risk" students.

Kam Falk (’87 BM) is releasing his debut CD of Instrumental Jazz and Fusion music entitled Native Tongue. The CD features a host of special guests including Delmar Brown (Sting), Elliot Randall (Stevy Dan), and Gerry Brown (Stevie Wonder), as well as multimedia enhancement. http://www.nativetongue.com

Lisa Fazio (’96 BME) has been the Orchestra Director and Guitar Instructor at Thurman White Middle School in Henderson, Nevada for the past six years. Last year she received an Outstanding Music Educator Award. She is currently working on a Masters degree in school counseling at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

Judy N. Geller-Nevel (’74 MME) is currently in her 45th year as a Florida Public School Music Teacher, with 43 years in Duval County, Jacksonville, FL.

Elker L. Harris (’00 MM) was married on June 23rd to Angela. He is currently teaching at Ft. Pierce Magnet School of the Arts where he is the Lead Arts Teacher.

Jimmy Higginbotham (’98 BME) is the Band Director at Rockledge High School in Rockledge, FL. He has a wife, Theresa, and daughter, Haley.

Carlton Kilpatrick (’01 BME) is the Choral Director at Columbia High School in Lake City, FL.

Rena Panush (’79 MFA) sang Rosalinda in Die Fledermaus and Fiordiligi in Così fan tutti with Regina Opera of New York City. Last summer she sang Exultate, Jubilate, andMahler's 4th Symphony with the Beurgs Philharmonic in Bourgas, Bulgaria. This December she will sing the Villa Lobos Bachianas Brasilieras No. 5 in Detroit, MI.

Dr. Ron Parks (’92, MM) has had his piece "Counterparts" for flute quartet selected as the "test piece" for the forthcoming Australian Flute Festival. All competitors will be required to play a 5-6 min. excerpt from his work, which utilizes extensive use of extended technique, during the competition. The work will also be performed in its entirety on a major concert during the festival. Counterparts was written while Dr. Parks was studying at the University of Florida. The piece was his final assignment in Advanced Counterpoint with Dr. Sain.

Carol Piatnek-McCoy (’97 MM) was a national finalist in the Kidsing 2000 competition in Omaha, NE for her composition Hark, the Bells are Ringing. Her other works have been performed at the International Festival of Women Composers, by the Willis Bodine Chorale, and the Gainesville Youth Chorus. She is the Assistant to the Director of Music at the First Presbyterian Church and is the Music Director at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, FL. She is also the President of the Alachua County Youth Orchestra's Board of Directors.

Victor Vallo, Jr. (’91 PhD) is an Associate Professor of Music at Anderson College where he is the Coordinator of Music Education and Director of Instrumental Activities. In Spring 2001 he was appointed the Music Director and Conductor of the Anderson Symphony Orchestra.

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Continuing scholarship support is of paramount importance to the School of Music. Named, permanently endowed scholarships can be established for as little as $20,000 which ensures an annual scholarship of $1,000 in perpetuity. At the $100,000 level, the State of Florida provides a $50,000 match for a gift total of $150,000.

Of course, we welcome gifts in any amount, as all scholarship contributions are important to us and make a difference in our efforts to attract and keep quality students. If you wish to make a gift, send your check, made out to THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FOUNDATION, to University of Florida School of Music. Contributions at any level automatically entitle you to a membership in the Friends of Music. To become a member of the Friends of Music please call Dana Jacobson at 392-0223 x200 for more information or mail your donation to the School of Music, University of Florida, P.O. Box 117900, Gainesville, FL 32611-7900.

For information or assistance with endowments, bequests and/or estate planning, contact Ms. Peg Richardson, Development Director for the College of Fine Arts, at (352) 846-1211, or write to her in care of the UF Foundation, P.O. Box 14425. Gifts are eligible for a charitable education contribution.
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