Salzburg Opens Doors to Music Students

by Frederick Key Smith, Ph.D., Adjunct Lecturer in Music

As one of the most famous cities in the history of Western art music, as well as the Austrian city featured in the ever-popular motion picture *The Sound of Music*, Salzburg has been the birthplace and/or home to some of Europe’s greatest composers. Now, thanks to a new study abroad program directed by the School of Music at the University of Florida and hosted by Salzburg College in Austria, music students have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of such masters as Heinrich Biber (1681-1749), Michael Haydn (1737-1806), and, of course, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1797).

According to Mutlu Çitim-Kepic, Director of Music Admissions and Undergraduate Advisor for UF’s School of Music, as well as the creator and coordinator of the program, “Study abroad has always been an area of interest for me. I think it is fascinating to learn about other cultures and their people. I thought immersing our students in the rich musical and historical heritage of this part of Europe would benefit them in more than one way. Since UF has put forth an extra effort to increase ‘internationalism’ during the last few years, I decided to create a music program to further broaden the horizons of our students.”

Begun in 2003, the School of Music Salzburg Summer Program is a five-week encounter with the people, culture, and music of Austria. Students stay with an Austrian host family, take part in a music history course, enjoy instrumental or vocal instruction, and share a four-day trip to Vienna, as well as day tours of nearby sites. All of the music courses, which are taught by Salzburg College faculty, count towards UF’s summer residency requirement and the student’s major.

As a result of Çitim-Kepic’s collaboration with the UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a number of cultural courses—including German Language Studies, Austrian History and Culture, The European Union, and Understanding European Politics—are being added to the upcoming summer’s offerings in the hopes of attracting majors from other UF colleges and schools as well. Such courses will count towards UF’s general education requirement. “This wonderful experience should be shared with as many students as possible,” she says.

The real highlight of the program, of course, is the location. Çitim-Kepic discovered Salzburg College on the internet (www.salzburgcollege.com) and first visited the location three years ago while in Austria. While fairly small—occupying a 16th century town house, situated on a small square flanked by a historic city gate and one of Salzburg’s famous Baroque churches—the private Austrian institution, whose primary language of instruction is English, has specialized in teaching students from American colleges and universities for the past thirty years. The five...

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Greetings,

As we go to press with this edition of Encore, we are quickly approaching the Holidays and bring to close another Fall semester. As I think back over the past few months, I am amazed at how fast the time has passed, but at the same time, I am pleased at the accomplishments of the music faculty and students.

Our students continue to receive national and international attention for outstanding contributions to the music profession. Many are preparing to present research papers at major professional meetings throughout the United States. Others have placed well in regional and national competitions. Among the more notable achievements is the work of Marilyn Ward, a recent Ph.D. graduate in Music Education, which was featured in the November 10th edition of U.S. News and World Report. And our congratulations to Nicholas Pallesen, a student in the studio of Elizabeth Graham who received a second place at the Palm Beach Atlantic National Voice Competition. He was the only undergraduate in the competition!

This Fall the Century Tower carillon received new bells, purchased through the Webb Carillon Fund, and Professor Emeritus Willis Bodine introduced the new sounds on September 11, 2003. This installation completes the missing upper range of our carillon and places it among the finest of carillons in the nation.

We continue to reach out to our alumni, friends and other supporters as we continue our efforts to seek donors to help bring to reality our major fundraising projects. Earlier in November, the fundraiser, Gators Go Dancing, sponsored by Tampa Bay alumni, took place in St. Petersburg and featured our own Gary Langford and the UF Jazz Band. In October, Stephen Stills performed on the UF campus to a very enthusiastic audience. He is indeed a “friend” of the University of Florida and pledges to do more to support the new Gator Band Building.

Our colleague Boaz Sharon performed at historic Steinway Hall in New York at the end of October to kick off the initiative to raise funds for the School of Music to become an All-Steinway School. More events are being planned for the Spring Semester in and around the State of Florida to build interest among donors for this important fundraising project.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff in the School of Music, I wish all of you a most prosperous New Year!

Cordially,

Dr. John A. Duff, Director
School of Music
story building includes several practice rooms, a library, a lounge, classrooms, offices, and an art studio, as well as a cafeteria that daily serves freshly prepared Austrian dishes.

Rather than stay in impersonal dormitories or hotels, students are further exposed to Austrian culture by staying with volunteer host families throughout Salzburg. “This is an excellent opportunity for students to integrate into Austrian culture,” says Çitim-Kepic. Since students spend a good portion of their stay abroad with their host families, including many breakfasts and dinners, Salzburg College is particularly concerned with matching each student with the proper home. Depending on the needs and desires of each student, such families range in size from a single individual to a large multi-generational household. English-language skills also vary from very little to nearly complete fluency.

According to Çitim-Kepic, this past summer’s program was a complete success. “Last year’s trip went off without a hitch,” she says. “This is pretty unusual considering it is a brand-new program. All of the students were very pleased with the instrumental and vocal instruction as well as the music history course. Everyone also liked and got along well with their family. There was culture shock for the first few weeks of the trip, but that was expected. I think one of the main reasons why the trip was such a great success is the experienced Salzburg College faculty and staff.”

Although the School of Music Salzburg Summer Program is one of the most affordable study abroad programs available, the $4000 cost is still a difficult obstacle for many students who would benefit from the experience. The program requires a minimum of fifteen students each summer, and many are not eligible for financial aid. Çitim-Kepic is hoping to create a scholarship program in the near future to decrease the financial burden on students. This scholarship opportunity will be vital to the program since there is very little funding currently available for study abroad in music.

In speaking of the future of the program, Çitim-Kepic says, “There is just so much music and history in Salzburg. I hope our students will return home each year not only as better musicians but also as individuals who have become more aware of other cultures and people.”

“I did so much more that I expected I would. I enjoyed basically every moment of the days. I only wish I could have stayed longer.”
—Eric Lubarsky (Clarinet)

“This trip has definitely made me think more about my future and the options I have after UF, in music and in other career fields…This trip was great because it made everything much more real, when you discuss things in a book it’s not the same as seeing it live”
—Dominique Edwards (Piano)

“It has made me want to work harder to become a professional musician. Studying abroad has inspired me to try to reach my full potential as a singer”
—Megan Smith (Voice)

“Everything we did had a cultural background to it. Music was and still is a part of their culture, so our field trips that involved music also had a cultural aspect to it”
—Chrystal Conrad (Voice)
FACULTY NOTES

RONALD BURRICHTER, received the Wayne Hugoboom Distinguished Service award from the Florida chapter of the American Choral Directors Association on Saturday, November 8 at the Fall Conference held at Seminole Community College in Lake Mary, FL.

BRENDA SMITH concluded the academic year 2002-2003 serving as solo voice judge for the Florida Vocal Association State Adjudication Festival in Miami and Gainesville. During the summer, Dr. Smith presented Choral Pedagogy workshops at the University of Florida and the Summer Music Institute at Central Connecticut State University. She also gave recitals in Penney Farms, FL and in Surrey, ME. In late July, Dr. Smith spoke on stage presence and voice use at the Centennial Convention of Sigma Alpha Iota held in Dearborn, MI. This fall she presented two sessions on singing technique and vocal health at the American Orff-Schulwerk Association National Conference in Louisville, KY (November 11-14).

MITCHELL ESTRIN traveled to New York City in October to record the motion picture soundtrack for Disney’s “The Alamo”. The score was composed by Hollywood veteran Carter Burwell. The sixteen recording sessions were held at Right Track Recording Studios in Manhattan. On November 6, the University of Florida Clarinet Ensemble performed works by UF composition students Michael Deall and Thomas Nelly at the SCI Regional Conference at Stetson University.

ARTHUR JENNINGS and JAMES JENKINS organized Tubonium 2003, a festival for tubas, trombones and euphoniums, which was presented on Monday evening, November 3. The UA stage was filled with about 80 mostly high school aged musicians who rehearsed and performed the world premiere of Gail Robertson’s “Florida Phantastique,” a work commissioned for the event that celebrated both the 150th anniversary of UF and the 200th birthday of Hector Berlioz. Special guest artist and clinician Demondrae Thurman of Alabama State University was the featured soloist on both trombone and euphonium. UF’s tuba and euphonium ensemble, trombone choir, and the “Sweet ‘n Low” Trombone Quartet also performed.

PAUL KOONCE’s work, Anacrusis, for 8-channel surround-sound tape, was performed at the University of Florida Unbalanced Connection concert, Impulse Response, on October 17, along with his work Out of Breath, and at the Third Practice Festival in Richmond, Virginia on November 1.

DAVID KUSNER will present a paper on “Modest Mussorgsky: Barbarism and Realism in His Nationalistic Music” at the national conference of the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association in St.Louis in March 2004. At the same conference, Christina Reitz, Ph.D., GTA in musicology, will present a paper on “Maria Szymanowska: The Influence of Literature on Her Music”. Kushner’s “Recitals in the Schools” program traveled to Central Florida Community College on October 30. The Ocala Star-Banner, which has covered this program in previous forays to the public schools of Marion County, also treated this event for students at CFCC.

David Kushner presented an illustrated lecture on “The Songs of Stephen Foster” at Crowder College on November 26. He compared topical songs such as “Camptown Races” with plantation songs such as “My Old Kentucky Home.” He also treated the politically incorrect text of the current Florida State Song, “Old Folks at Home,” and compared it with the first Florida State Song, “Florida O Florida.”

KEVIN ORR was involved in a variety of events at the 2003 Florida State Music Teachers Association Conference in Jacksonville, November 6-9. He adjudicated the FSMTA state solo piano competition and gave a 50-minute pedagogical workshop entitled: Understanding and Teaching Improvisatory Keyboard Skills and The Musical Intermediate. He performed as a soloist on a recital featuring university piano faculty from around the state.

PAUL RICHARDS was composer-in-residence for the New Music Delaware Festival at The University of Delaware in October. His “Passamezzo Antico”, for wind ensemble, was performed numerous times in the fall, including at the SCI Region IV conference at Stetson University. He was an invited participant at Electronic Music Midwest at The University of Missouri – Kansas City, and will participate in a panel discussion on student composers’ organizations at the National Student Conference of The Society of Composers, Inc. conference at The University of Miami. Also on the panel is UF composition doctoral fellow, Sam Hamm.

JAMES PAUL SAIN recently participated in the performance of his work “Scattered Voices,” for digital media and poetry recitation at the University of Richmond’s “3rd Practice” festival of electroacoustic music (Oct. 31 - Nov. 1). The poem recited with the work, “seven turtles,” is by University of Florida faculty Lola Haskins with whom Sain has work on several previous projects. His work “Coriolis Effect” was performed at the Society of Composers Inc. Region IV conference held at Stetson University (Nov. 6-8). Sain presented a collaborative lecture on christianity and music at Gainesville’s Christian Study Center in collaboration with Dr. Budd Udell and Dr. Kandace Brooks (Nov. 13). He was also an invited panel member at the Society of Composers Inc. Student National Conference at the University of Miami (Nov. 20-22) to discuss strategies for submitting works to contests and applying for academic positions.
A major renovation and upgrade of the carillon in Century Tower was made possible by a generous gift from the estate of Larry A. Webb, St. Augustine. This renovation brought new bells to the tower and provided needed upgrades to the carillon mechanism.

The original 49-bell carillon was installed in 1979 by the Royal Eijsbouts foundry in Asten, The Netherlands. The largest bell (called the Bourdon) weighs about 7,000 lbs. In September, the Eijsbouts foundry added 12 treble bells to the instrument bringing the total number to 61. The carillon now has a range of five octaves.

While the new bells are the most noticeable addition to the carillon, many other elements of the carillon mechanism were enhanced. The clappers were in good condition, but slightly flattened. They were sent back to the Netherlands where the striking points were ground. Also, the 25-year-old hinges that hold the clappers in place were replaced.

The transmission action includes all the parts that connect the clapper with the keyboard or clavier. There have been new developments in carillon technology that have led to improvements in the transmission system. The former tumbler bar mechanism was replaced with direct cranks and all other aspects of the transmission action were updated.

A new, state-of-the-art performance clavier was installed, replacing a clavier that was nearly 25 years old. This clavier is easier to handle and allows the performer to interpret music with more nuance. In addition, a new practice clavier was installed in the carillon practice room in the University Auditorium. This practice clavier has an external sound source of sampled bells that is controlled by a MIDI-interfaced electronic system. When a student practices on this clavier they actually hear a sampled sound of the UF carillon (or they can practice on other carillon sounds from across the country and the world!)

The tolling heard at the hour, quarter hour, half-hour and three-quarter hour are initiated by an automated computer system. The new Apollo technology is state of the art.

Following a summer of silence, the carillon in Century Tower is again sounding across the UF campus. Mini-recitals are performed each day (Monday thru Friday) from 12:35 – 12:50 p.m. Funds remaining from the Webb estate will be used for an endowment dedicated to a visiting artist series and student fellowships for the carillon.

On October 9, LAURA ELLIS was soloist for the Organ Concerto in B-Flat Major, Op. 7, No. 1 of G.F. Handel. She was accompanied by the University Symphony Orchestra in a performance held at the University Auditorium. Serving as a last-minute substitute for a recitalist who had broken a finger, Ellis performed an organ recital for First Presbyterian Church in Lake Wales on Sunday, October 19. On Sunday, November 2, Ellis presented a recital at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gainesville on the historic Johnson and Sons organ built in the 1890’s, and on November 15, she accompanied the Gainesville Civic Chorus at First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville. The program included a performance of the Faure “Requiem.”
Despite having been the Director of Bands and Professor of Saxophone at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, for nearly thirty years, William A. Gora and his wife, Virginia, continue to remember fondly their time in Gainesville at the University of Florida. But for Gora, who graduated from UF in 1971 with a Master of Music in Music Education, it was the people, not the place, that made his experiences at Florida’s premier university so memorable and rewarding. While Gora is certainly not the only School of Music Alum to feel this way, his praise of the University of Florida’s Music Faculty is particularly telling given his other collegiate educational opportunities.

A native of New York, Gora’s family spent a few years in West Virginia and Pennsylvania before finally settling in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, when he was eleven. In fact, it was during his adolescence in Ft. Lauderdale that he began to seriously consider a musical career. Following high school, Gora attended the University of Miami, earning a Bachelor of Music in conducting. After his matriculation at UF, he returned to UM to earn a Doctor of Musical Arts in saxophone performance. During these two enrollments at Miami, he studied with such legendary musical figures as conductor Frederick Fennell, composer Clifton Williams, jazz saxophonist Jerry Coker, and Sousa band bassoonist Otto Kraushaar.

“I was very fortunate to have studied both conducting and literature with Frederick Fennell, and to have played in his wind ensemble both as an undergraduate and graduate student. I have never stopped learning from him, no matter how brief our encounters have been over the years. He is a true giant, even today at ninety years of age,” Gora says. “Clifton Williams was not only a great teacher, but a particularly wonderful person . . . kind and gentle.”

Nevertheless, despite the unquestionable fame in the wind band world of these University of Miami individuals, none of which are still on faculty at the south Florida school, Gora values no less his time with the music faculty at the University of Florida. He enthusiastically remembers a number of professors, particularly those involved with the wind and jazz bands, who still continue to reside in Gainesville.

“Richard Bowles and Robert Foster provided me with every possible opportunity to develop my skills as a band conductor. I had many conducting opportunities and was given the job of directing Jazz Ensemble II. I also taught several applied saxophone students. Dick Bowles is the consummate teacher! He constantly encouraged me to do my best – the first time, if possible!” he says. “Harold Bachman, meanwhile, provided me with a solid foundation in band history by simply giving me his time. We had many conversations during my time at UF.”

Gora’s involvement and interest in music at the University of Florida wasn’t limited to the bandroom, however. Nor has he forgotten the lessons he learned outside of the saxophone studio: “My music history courses with David Kushner laid the groundwork for a lifelong historical curiosity and demonstrated to me what a true scholar should be. David Wilmot challenged me every day to think seriously about music education, not simply the ‘how to,’ but the ‘why.’ I watched Reid Poole attempt to keep his faculty happy with his quiet, courteous leadership skills. Of course, you can’t really keep every faculty member happy!”

Today Gora is quite at home in North Carolina and continues to play saxophone as often as possible, having performed with such ensembles as the North Carolina Symphony, the Modesto Symphony Orchestra in California, and the New York-based Vivaldi Traveling Circus. “I could never not be a ‘player!’ The saxophone is what got me into this,” he says. “I still play a lot of jazz and include it in all of my applied instruction. I also give a recital every few years. I have always felt rather strongly that the best music teachers were, and are, the best performers. At some point one must have been able to express himself or herself on an instrument or voice.”

Gora has also been a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician in over thirty states, Canada, and Europe. As a result of contacts made through his Taiwanese students at Appalachian State, he made several trips to Taipei, Taiwan, in the mid-1990’s, resulting in the development of numerous band programs in public elementary schools. He also organized and conducted the first Taipei All-County Band.

At the heart of Gora’s mission as a music educator, however, is a deep passion for public school music reform. In addition to having served as an officer in such music education organizations as the American Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, Music Educators National Conference, National Band Association, North Carolina Music Educators Association, and North
Carolina Bandmasters Association, Gora has received grants to both design and host symposiums on public school reform for school band and orchestra directors.

"The very future of serious art music is in the hands of school music programs. We have had, however, since the Reagan administration, a steady stream of criticism towards public education. A weak music program will not stand up to these criticisms," he says. "I would hope that every member of our profession will soon be able to advocate for their art portraying music as an important member of a complete academic offering. Music is academic!"

"Within the profession we must be totally comfortable that our role is to teach music. If we continue to be misled into believing that kids will not commit the time necessary to learn to be outstanding players, are no longer intrigued by the music of the Masters, or that dragging a bunch of junk onto a football field is music education, we run the huge risk of becoming a forgotten part of public education," Gora continues. "In other words, I am not completely sure that the profession ‘at-large’ has completely bought into the idea of music for music’s sake. This worries me."

Outside of the realm of music education, Gora and his wife have raised three children in North Carolina and continue to maintain close ties with many friends they made while at the University of Florida. Though Virginia herself is not ‘officially’ alumni, she was quite involved with UF during her husband’s time as a student. In addition, both of Gora’s brothers are UF alumni. "It was a very pleasant experience there in Gainesville. I really enjoy keeping up with what is going on down there with the School of Music and the University," he says. "Our time at the University of Florida is one of Ginny’s and my most prized possessions!"

Nicholas Pallesen, (baritone, studio of Dr. Elizabeth Graham) received 2nd place on November 15th at the Palm Beach Atlantic National Voice competition in West Palm Beach. He was one of 23 national finalists (ages 22-30) that included masters and doctoral students from the Indiana University School of Music, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Boston Conservatory of Music, as well as professional singers with major opera companies in New York, Chicago, Miami, and San Francisco. He was the only undergraduate student in the competition.

2004 FMEA Alumni Reception
January 9, 2004
Tampa Marriott Waterside/Champions
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Ronald L. Howard ('82, M.Ed., '01, Ph.D.) led his Atlanta International School Jazz Ensemble on a tour to the Dominican Republic, November 4-10, 2003. The band performed at the Saint George School in Santo Domingo as well as on the Plaza Espana in the Zona Colonial. On November 7, the band participated in the dedication of Park Atlanta in the rural village of Salcedo. Salcedo is one of Atlanta’s seventeen sister cities throughout the world. The park was built in commemoration of the three Mirabal sisters who are Dominican national heroines and were executed in 1960 in the midst of their civil rights work. Dr. Howard’s wind ensemble and jazz band is also scheduling a five-city European concert tour for fall 2004 to Brussels, London, Paris, Amsterdam, and Frankfurt.

Carlton Kilpatrick ('01, BME) has started the M.M. in program in Choral Conducting at Florida State University this fall after two and a half years of teaching at Columbia High School in Lake City, FL.

Ted Vives ('95, MM, '98 Ph.D.) is currently Conductor and Musical Director of Los Alamos Community Winds and faculty at University of New Mexico, Los Alamos. Recent works, awards, and performances include Introduction and Overture – From Palms to Poplars, premiered by the Same Fe Community Orchestra in February, 2003, …and they pealed more loud and deep, Winner, 2003 North Cheshire (UK) Composition Competition, premiered by the North Cheshire Concert Band in October 2003, and commissioned Elan con Brío for Bassoon, Trombone, and Piano Due, commissioned in 2003 by the Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico (MTNA – New Mexico State University Chapter).

Gabriel Fielder ('02, BME), Rookie Teacher of the Year at Leesburg High School, has lead the LHS marching band to achieve straight superior ratings at district festival two years in a row. The LHS Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band, conducted by Fielder, both received straight superior ratings at district festival last year.

Doug Harris ('85, BME) recently had his first composition, Chorale and March for concert band, published by Grand Mesa Music. It will be available in January.

Debra Wolosoff ('01, BME) was a recipient of a grant from VH1 Save the Music to create a band program. VH1 provided South Grade Elementary School with 40 instruments and other necessary materials. The school, a Title 1 school, is now one of five elementary schools in Palm Beach County to have a band program. Debra also received a grant to bring the World Music Drummng curriculum to SGES. Debra collaborates with guidance counselors to teach the program, which includes drum circles with the 50 most at-risk students in fourth and fifth grades. Every student involved in the program attends weekly drum circle and guidance sessions. The goal is to reduce violent behavior and raise test scores by discussing topics such as focus, respect and listening skills, all of which are instilled while performing in drum circles.

Rena Panush ('79, MFA) sang the role of Donna Anna from the Mozart opera, Don Giovanni in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Rena has previously sung the same role for the Regina Opera in New York City.

Larry Newcomb ('98, Ph.D.) is currently performing in New England, New Jersey, and New York with master reedman Dan Moretti’s quartet. Plans are underway for a tour of the Netherlands. Larry continues composing original music as well as presenting jazz classics. He also keeps a full schedule of performances in Manhattan with his own guitar trio and quartet.


Martha Frampton ('78, BM) currently teaches Music Theory at Pennsville High School. Husband Robert Frampton ('78, BME) currently supervises Art, Drama, Dance and Music at Washington Township High School. Their eldest son, William (17) will play the Bartok Viola Concerto next May with the Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey and plans to pursue viola studies in college next year. Bob and Martha’s second son, Matthew (12), plays trombone in the Rowan Youth Orchestra.

John Huffaker ('02, MME) currently lives in the Portland area of Oregon. He teaches Elementary music half-time and also works with local Middle and High School Bands. In January, John will be starting a Beginning Band program.

Bonnie Redd ('87, BM) is currently teaching music and violin in public school in Portland, Oregon.
Rachel (Harrshbarger) Pomatz ('02, MM) is currently engaged to be married April 3, 2004 to Don Palmer. Rachel is currently teaching elementary music at Bunnell Elementary and is working with the Flagler Palm Coast High School Marching Band.

Michael O’Neill ('99, BME) and Jennifer (Vander Weide) O’Neill ('98, BM) were married on June 16, 2000. Jenny works as a buyer for Dillard’s Corporate Offices and Mike just completed his M.M. degree from the University of North Texas in Choral Conducting. He is the head choir director at Central High School in Keller, Texas.

Richard Bowles’ (Professor Emeritus, UF) arrangement of the Kinder Symphony by Leopold Mozart has been accepted into publication by the Alfred Co., and will be in print by January. Richard’s book, “A Pinch of Salt,” published by the Alachua Press, was entered into the Florida Outdoor Writers Association “Excellence in Craft” competition and was winner of the book category.

David Earnest ('94, BM) currently serves as Worship Pastor at The Rock Church of Winter Haven, Florida. David and his wife, Julie, have three children; Reagan, David Marshall, and Bailey.

John Koch ('97, BME) and Shannon (Greene) Koch ('97, BME) had their first child on January 8, 2003. Their daughter’s name is Allison but they have nicknamed her “Alligator”. Shannon is teaching music at Garrison-Jones Elementary in Dunedin, Florida, and John is the music director of St. Matthias Lutheran Church in Clearwater.

Agnes Klauder ('95, MM) has appeared in joint recitals with recent UF graduates, pianist Carlos Wilk Dacosta and Andrew von Frasunkiewicz during the summer of 2003.

Sarah Ann Flaherty ('00, BME) is now the President of the Sigma Alpha Iota Alumni Chapter in Gainesville, Florida. Sarah currently teaches music at Prairie View Elementary, Waldo Community School and serves as the choir director at First Presbyterian of High Springs.

Debra (Manna) Traficante ('01, BME) is band director at New Smyrna Beach High School, Florida.

Mike O’Neill and Jenny Vander Weide were married on June 16, 2000. In August 2001, Mike and Jenny moved to Texas where Mike pursued his Master’s degree in choral conducting from the University of North Texas. He received that degree August 2003. Mike and Jenny became the proud parents of a baby girl on October 13, 2003. Her name is Katelyn Grace O’Neill. She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21 1/4 inches long.

Scholarship contributions

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 June Hall at 392-0223 x333 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.
“And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.” (Katherine Lee Bates, America, the Beautiful) Members of the University Choir experienced these lyrics first-hand this summer during a trip to San Diego. The choir was invited to sing in three patriotic performances with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra over the Fourth of July, 2003. Dr. Will Kesling, Director of Choral Activities at UF, conducted the three sold-out performances on the Navy Pier. The program included some of our nation’s best-loved patriotic songs such as America, the Beautiful, When the Saints Go Marching In, Battle Hymn of the Republic, and of course, The Star-Spangled Banner. Each concert concluded with John Phillip Sousa’s Stars and Stripes Forever accompanied by a fireworks show over the harbor. The Friday, July 5th performance was broadcast on National Public Radio. The concerts were a great success and the choir enjoyed singing in a professional venue.

Besides the fulfillment found in singing, the choir also enjoyed the sights and sounds of southern California. Favorite destinations of choir members were the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park, Old Town San Diego, Mission Beach, Coronado, and Tijuana, to name a few. Students were able to form friendships and make lasting memories.

This coming spring, Dr. Kesling and the University Choir have been invited back to San Diego to perform in two concerts of Carl Orff’s great work for choir and orchestra, Carmina Burana. The University Choir and Percussion Ensemble will perform the chamber version of Carmina Burana here at the University Memorial Auditorium on March 30, 2004.

The choir will leave for San Diego on the 1st of April for the performances with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra on April 3, 2004. Members of the choir are currently involved in fund-raising projects for the upcoming trip and are excited to perform such a great work on a professional stage. The University Choir appreciates the support given by Student Government, the College of Fine Arts, and our friends in the community. For further information on the University Choir, please call the Choral Activities Office at 392-0223 extension 242.

Staff Sergeant Mark Wood of the US Army Blues (UF School of Music, Bachelor of Music in Music Education, 1991, trumpet) returned to present a master class for his former teacher Dr. Joyce Davis’ students on November 17, 2003. After Mark graduated in 1991, he began graduate studies at the University of Kentucky while Vincent DiMartino was in residence there and completed his Master of Music at Northern Illinois. He played with US Army Field Band in Washington, D.C. for several years and recently joined the “Blues,” the premier Army Jazz Band.

During the masterclass, Mark gave the students numerous ideas concerning consistent practice habits, equal tone quality throughout the range of the trumpet, and other technical aspects of trumpet playing. He stressed the importance of versatility of today’s musician. Mark made the point that he played music from every idiom in order to be a marketable performer and described his experiences in the US service bands with great admiration.

Later in the week, Mark sat in with the UF Jazz Band with Professor Gary Langford, and spoke with the Jazz Band about his playing experiences in the Washington D.C. area. While at UF, Mark played lead trumpet in the UF Jazz Band and recorded 2 critically acclaimed CDs.
New Scholarship Created at the School of Music

A national trade association representing the coin machine industry recently established a new scholarship program for students enrolled in the University of Florida’s acclaimed School of Music in Gainesville.

The Amusement & Music Operators Association (AMOA), a 55-year-old organization comprised of more than 1,300 jukebox operators, collaborated with the School of Music in creating the Rich Holley Memorial Music Scholarship. Named after AMOA’s late President Rich Holley, a Floridian who was a professional musician before entering the “coin-op” business, the scholarship will feature up to two $2,500 awards to eligible students in the School of Music. Mr. Holley, who continued to play guitar and keyboards at social gatherings—both personal and industry functions—was President of AMOA when he died in a crash of his private plane off North Captiva Island, FL, in March of this year.

At the association’s annual trade show in Las Vegas in September, Mutlu Çitim-Kepic, Director of Music Admissions and Undergraduate Advisor at the university’s School of Music, accepted a ceremonial check from AMOA President Chris Warren, who was joined by members of Rich Holley’s family—wife Bev and son Michael—at the presentation to officially announce the new Rich Holley Memorial Music Scholarship.

“We are delighted to work with the School of Music in Gainesville to develop this scholarship,” said AMOA President Chris Warren. “Rich’s passion for music was legendary in our business and this new program is certainly a fitting tribute. He would be quite proud, and so are we.”

For more information, contact Mutlu Çitim-Kepic at: 352-392-0223, ext. 205 or mcitim@arts.ufl.edu

Sunshine Steelers Perform in Louisville, Kentucky

The University of Florida Sunshine Steelers Steel Drum Band recently performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Louisville, KY this November. The UF Ensemble was one of only six steel bands internationally invited to perform at the prestigious event. Dr. Ken Broadway (Associate Professor of Percussion at UF) submitted a recording of the group to the international selection committee, which accepted the group from the multitude of applicants. The Sunshine Steelers have been selected to perform a mini concert at the Florida Music Educators In-Service Convention in Tampa in January of 2004. The ensemble plays a diverse program, featuring calypso and soca arrangements from Trinidad, new works for the genre, and arrangements of pop/jazz music.

The Steel Band program has been in existence at UF since 1998. With financial assistance from Student Government and the Center for Latin American Studies, the School of Music purchased the majority of the instruments from Ellie Mannette, considered to be the founder of the modern steel drum. Born in Trinidad, Mannette now lives in West Virginia, where he operates the Mannette Steel Drum Company. The group also owns several pans built by Trinidad natives Lloyd Gay and Desmond Richardson. Since its founding, the Sunshine Steelers have performed throughout the state, and are active in the Gainesville community as well, performing at Duval Elementary and Talbot Elementary. Members of the ensemble have performed at the Downtown Recreation Center for the after school program, and have performed at Gator Nights at the Reitz Union on several occasions. The Sunshine Steelers perform twice a year in University Auditorium, and have featured guest artist from throughout the United States. Recent artists have included Tom Miller (California recording artist), Tony McCutchen (Professor of Percussion at the University of Georgia), Dave Lapio (Florida free-lance musician), and Joel Morris (Georgia free-lance musician). The steel bands will welcome artist Gary Gipson as guest soloist in Spring of 2004 (April 13, 8:00, University Auditorium). The group has also performed several times for the Florida Percussive Arts Society “Day of Percussion” and at professional meetings of other organizations throughout the state.

The ensemble is open through audition to any student regardless of major. There are usually two or three steel bands operating each semester. Please visit the Sunshine Steelers website at http://grove.ufl.edu/~steelers/ for more information about upcoming performances.
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