

# Music Notes

Delta State University  
Department of Music  
Fall 2010  
Volume 8, Issue 1

## *From the Chair's Desk.....*

New faces are a trademark of the beginning of any new school year. Although my face is not a new one at Delta State after 22 years, my duties for this academic year are. I am enjoying the responsibility of chairing the Department of Music for 2010-11. Dr. Paul Hankins, who has been music chair for 3 years, is serving as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for this academic year, thus, the need for an interim chair in this department. It is work I enjoy doing, in addition to teaching, and I am certainly getting a much closer look at the intricate operations of the Department of Music.



We welcome about 25-30 new students to our three degree programs (BA, BME, BM) this year, as well as many non-majors to our ensembles. There are no new music faculty this year, but we did say good-bye to Dr. Christopher Meerdink, Assistant Professor of Music, and voice teacher who accepted a similar position at the West Texas A & M University in Canyon, TX. We wish him all the best and will remember his positive and dynamic presence in our department during the last 3 years.

Several events are marking 2010 and 2011 as active and productive years. The choral program toured Austria and the Czech Republic this summer, singing at various places. DSU will be the host for the conference and competitions of the

Mississippi Music Teacher's Association the first weekend in November and again in the spring. The piano area has plans in the making again for highlighting piano performance in the area.

The DSU Opera will have productions both semesters along with the Jazz, Percussion/Steel, Low Brass and Woodwind Ensembles. Several concerts are scheduled for the choirs and for the wind ensemble. The DSU Pride of the Delta "Fighting Okra" Marching Band (also known as the Marching Statesmen) can be seen and heard at all home football games and parades. Completing our calendar are faculty, guest and student degree recitals.

Please look at our music department web site for the complete calendar of events. You are invited to any and all of these, even the Thursday afternoon convocations. Several community people have attended fairly regularly, supporting our students as they develop as performers.

Our department continues to receive support from the university administration and funding from the state. We have held our own in credit hour production in the College of Arts and Sciences the last few years. However, attracting increased financial support from off-campus is a real necessity to aid in meeting our current goals and setting newer and even higher ones. Donations from alumni and friends of the music department are always warmly received and most definitely used wisely. We have several projects in mind including the upgrade of our practice rooms and the purchase of new pianos this year. Funding for faculty travel, recruiting and instructional materials is always needed. Contributions are a way to express pride in the ongoing legacy of the DSU Department of Music, honoring what has come before and envisioning what is being created for the future. Look for more information in this newsletter for ways that you can be a part of the stability and growth of the Department of Music at Delta State.

I hope to see and/or meet many of you throughout this year. Come back for a visit at Homecoming or any home football game, come by Zeigel Hall, or attend a calendar event. You'll always find that you are among family and friends on the northwest corner of the Quad.

Cordially,

Dr. Mark Butler, Professor of Music/Interim Chair

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## Music Faculty featured in Office of Instructional Technology Presentation

On April 27, 2010, several music faculty members gave an engaging presentation on new media technologies that enhance teaching and learning, called "Music to Our Ears: Teaching with Technology and New Media."

Drs. Shelley Collins, Teri Herron, Jung-Won Shin, and Christopher Meerdink demonstrated and discussed how they use various strategies and technologies, including screencasting, podcasting, and web video in class and online, to enhance teaching and learning.

## Faculty News

**Dr. Mark Butler**, Professor of Music, attended the Mississippi Conference of Church Music and Liturgy this summer, for which he serves as treasurer and registrar. He will accompany the choirs on the organ on their December concert. He is a member of the university's General Education Committee and co-chair of the Program Committee for the College of Education. He was designated interim chair in August of 2010.

**Dr. Shelley Collins**, Assistant Professor of Flute and Music History, served as Program Co-Chair of the Mid-South Flute Festival in Memphis, TN in March 2010. The two-day conference featured performances, workshops, and competitions, and was attended by over 130 flutists.

**Dr. Karen Fosheim**, Professor of Music, has been elected to the Southern Regional board of the College Music Society. She continues to serve as the piano area chair for the Mississippi Music Teachers Association. She and DSU alum S. Michael Shuman (2004) have teamed up to form a piano duo ensemble and performed a concert in Fayetteville, AR in September 2010. During the summer of 2010, Dr. Fosheim, along with DSU music students Latoya Calhoun and Dominique Smith, provided African drumming and dance classes for the Cleveland School District Summer Arts Program and DSU Continuing Education.

**Dr. Douglas Mark**, Assistant Professor of Low Brass, presented a guest artist recital and series of masterclasses at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA in February 2010. He and his trombone quartet, The Mississippi Trombone Authority, performed a concert at Mississippi State University in recognition of International Trombone Week in April 2010. Dr. Mark has recently been appointed as brass area chair for the Mississippi Music Teachers Association.

**Dr. Bret Pimentel**, Assistant Professor of Woodwinds, presented a lecture, "Woodwind doubling for the 21st-century saxophonist: increasing versatility without sacrificing virtuosity," at the 2010 North American Saxophone Alliance national conference. At the 2010 Mid-South Flute Festival, he presented another lecture, "Folk, ethnic, and period flutes for fun and profit," and performed as a chamber musician on clarinet and bassoon in the Masters Concert. Dr. Pimentel's recent performances on the Delta State campus include a recital of works by Debussy on oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, and flute, with pianist Kumiko Shimizu, a performance as a guest soloist on flute, clarinet, and saxophone with the Delta State University Wind Ensemble, and a performance as a guest saxophone soloist with the Delta State University Jazz Ensemble.

**Dr. Kumiko Shimizu**, Assistant Professor of Music, was invited to play for the Women's Honor Choirs at the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Conference in Memphis in March 2010 and at the ACDA Mississippi State Convention in Jackson in April.

**Dr. Jung-Won Shin**, Assistant Professor of Music, presented a lecture recital on William Bolcom's *Nine New Bagatelles* at the Southern Regional Conference of College Music Society in New Orleans, Louisiana, in February 2010. And she won second prize for piano four hands in the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition in May 2010.

**Dr. Richard Waters**, Associate Professor of Music, had his composition, "Sleep, Sleep, Beauty Bright", selected for publication by Colla Voce Music.

**Dr. John Wojcik**, Associate Professor of Music, will be a judge at the Mississippi Regional Marching Competition in Grenada on October 9, 2010.

**Delta State University Department of Music**  
**BECOME A MUSIC DEPARTMENT DONOR!**

We gladly accept generous donations to assist with our many goals and activities in the music department. If you have donated in the past, you are much appreciated...please consider giving annually. If you have not given in the past, consider becoming a much appreciated donor today. Your support and leadership will be invaluable. If you know of others who might be able to provide financial assistance to the music department, please forward any information to them.

**For more information about making a contribution** you may contact the DSU Music Department at 662-846-4615 or [mbutler@deltastate.edu](mailto:mbutler@deltastate.edu), or The Delta State University Foundation, Inc. at 662-846-4704 or [foundation@deltastate.edu](mailto:foundation@deltastate.edu).

**You can also complete this form and mail it back to us at:**

Department of Music, Delta State University, P.O. Box 3256, Cleveland, MS 38733- Attn: Donations  
*We'll contact you to talk about how you can make a contribution.*

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (Ms. Mr. Mrs. Dr.) Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Alumni of DSU? \_\_\_y \_\_\_n DSU music alumni? \_\_\_y \_\_\_n Previous donation made? \_\_\_y \_\_\_n Year? \_\_\_\_\_

Although any amount is appreciated, please consider a gift of:

\$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*You create a legacy when you give towards the future.....*

### CHOIR STUDENTS PERFORM IN AUSTRIA & CZECH REPUBLIC

Twenty singers from the DSU choral program spent eight memorable days in Austria and the Czech Republic this past May. The choir performed for enthusiastic audiences in Salzburg Cathedral, Kollegienkirche (Salzburg), Melk Abbey, Karlskirche (Vienna), and St. Nicholas Church (Prague). Other sight-seeing opportunities included Mirabel Palace and Gardens, Mozart's birthplace, Hallein Salt Mines, Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna House of Music, Dvorak Museum, and Old Town Square in Prague. Our sincere thanks goes out to everyone who helped make this trip possible.



### UPCOMING CHOIR CONCERTS

The Chamber Singers and Chorale will present the **Fall Choir Concert** on **Thursday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m.** The reverberant acoustics in the atrium of **Kent Wyatt Hall** will be the perfect setting for this program of all-unaccompanied music, featuring compositions by Eric Barnum, Ola Gjeilo, Hall Johnson, Felix Mendelssohn, Charles Villiers Stanford, Thomas Tallis, Thomas Weelkes, and Eric Whitacre. This concert is free and open to the public.

Join all three DSU choirs for the **Holiday Choir Concert** on **Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 p.m.** at **Covenant Presbyterian Church** in Cleveland. Students from DSU's Chamber Singers, Chorale, and Delta Singers will present contemporary and traditional carols. Don't miss this annual highlight of the season!

*Music Notes* is edited by Dr. Douglas Mark. Send all alumni and change of address information to [dmark@deltastate.edu](mailto:dmark@deltastate.edu) or Dr. Mark; P.O. Box 3256; DSU; Cleveland, MS; 38733

## Delta State Opera

With almost thirty performers on stage, **March 8, 2010** marked an aspect of opera that DSU audiences had never seen. The students presented a production of **Final Fantasy VI – The Opera (Maria and Draco)**. This work, taken from the video game by the same name, was set to music by student composer and Bachelor of Arts major Gene Kachenovich. The production was presented before an exuberant crowd, and the drama was spellbinding. Elements of song, dance and drama combined to make the presentation one in which the students could take pride. The evening also featured a scene from Monteverdi's **The Coronation of Poppea**. The night ended with a real hoe-down in the production of **Down in the Valley** by Kurt Weill. It was an evening enjoyed by all.

The Fall of 2010 will open with a production October 28 at 1:30 p.m. in the Bologna Performing Arts Center Recital Hall. The afternoon will feature various operatic scenes and will showcase DSU Opera veterans as well as several newcomers. For the first semester in over twenty years, the male voices outnumber the female. Dr. Buchanan reports that this new influx of men is an exciting dilemma for casting roles. The 2010-11 school year should be an exciting one for DSU Opera.

The DSU Opera, an integral part of the DSU Department of Music, is still serving talented students. These students come from various walks of life and a broad spectrum of life experiences. Each student has a contribution to make, and each can flourish as long as DSU supports their efforts. Whether they graduate and go on to teach in our public schools, go to graduate school or perform on a regional or national level, they will take the skills they have learned in DSU Opera and successfully share them with varied audiences. With economic challenges affecting every aspect of the educational process, the DSU Opera is not exempt from budget cuts. When planning your charitable contributions, please consider support for the DSU Opera. All gifts are tax deductible when made through the Delta State University Foundation and designated "DSU Opera." For further information about how your gift can best be used, contact Dr. Mary Lenn Buchanan, Director of Opera, at 662-846-4124. Thank you in advance for every consideration.

### DSU Music Scholarship Auditions:

Know anyone who is interested in joining the DSU Band or Choir, or majoring in music? Let them know they can audition for a music scholarship. Audition dates are below. Additional dates can be set up by appointment. Contact Dr. John Wojcik (662-846-4629) or Dr. Richard Waters (662-846-4115) for more information.

Friday, February 18, 2011; 10:00 am  
Friday, March 25, 2011; 10:00 am  
Friday, April 15, 2010; 10:00 am

For information on Delta State University's Music Department and its offerings, please visit our website:

<http://music.deltastate.edu>

## Our Alumni Report...

**James Koestler (BME, 2010)**, was recently appointed the position of Assistant Band Director at South Panola High School in Batesville, MS. He and his wife, Ginger Tobin Koestler (BA, 2010) were married on June 26, 2010 in Meridian, MS. Ginger is teaching Special Education classes at Lafayette Lower Elementary School in Oxford, MS, where they both reside.

**Michael Shuman (BM, 2004)**, performs throughout the northwest Arkansas region. His collaborative performances at the keyboard and as a singer can be heard at numerous recitals and concerts given by the University of Arkansas, John Brown University, The Village Players, and other local musicians.

### Do You Have News You'd Like to Share?

**Please send any news items or address updates to:**

dmark@deltastate.edu or Dr. Mark; P.O. Box 3256, DSU, Cleveland, MS 38733

*We would love hearing from you!!!*

## Calling All Alumni!!!!!!

### The DSU Department of Music Alumnus/a of the Year Award

If you are a graduate of Delta State University, we invite you to make nominations for the DSU Department of Music Alumnus/a of the Year Award. Nominees for the award must be graduates of the DSU Department of Music and display excellence in the field of music. To make a nomination please go the Department of Music website and follow the link to "Alumni News" to view selection criteria and download the nomination form. Forms may be submitted electronically to [dmark@deltastate.edu](mailto:dmark@deltastate.edu), or by regular mail to: Dr. Douglas Mark, Delta State University, Department of Music, Box 3256, Cleveland, MS 38733. All nomination forms must be received or postmarked by December 1, 2010.

## Come Join Us!!!!!!

### DSU Music Alumni Homecoming Cookout

Saturday, October 16, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Shumate Park (behind the football stadium)

*"Come enjoy a burger or a frank with your DSU music family."*

Let us know if you can attend - [662/846-4615](tel:6628464615)/[mbutler@deltastate.edu](mailto:mbutler@deltastate.edu)

## Music Department's Relay for Life Team, 2010

The DSU Music Department Relay for Life Team set and reached their goal of raising funds for the American Cancer Society again last spring. The team, led by Drs. Butler and Herron, was able to collect and donate over \$1200. The planned events for the Relay in April were cancelled due to weather. The African drumming group, Dr. Herron's belly-dance troupe, and the DSU Steel Band had all been in the line up for the evening's entertainment, but were unable to participate. Although setting up the department's tent and providing entertainment were not possible this year, several team members did attend the re-scheduled celebration at the Cleveland High School stadium the next week. They walked several laps and participated in the memorial and luminary ceremony. Dr. Butler even danced with the "electric slide" people as they celebrated the 2010 theme of "dance for a cure." The team will look for new ways to collect more funds and participate in the event in 2011.

## DSU Music Department Students win at Mississippi Music Teachers Competition

Eight Delta State University Department of Music students competed in the Mississippi Music Teachers Association competition in Oxford on March 6, 2010. In the Concerto Competition, saxophonist Steven Hugley of Vicksburg was awarded first place, and saxophonist Austin White, also from Vicksburg, received second place.

In the Junior/Senior Piano division, pianist Katy Saxton-Koehler, of Cleveland, was awarded second place. In the Junior/Senior Woodwind division, flutist JJ Hatfield, of Booneville, was also awarded second place. In the Freshman/Sophomore Woodwind division, flutist Robyn Rouse of Gulfport received an Honorable Mention.

In the Junior/Senior Woodwind Chamber Music competition, the DSU Saxophone Quartet of Steven Hugley, Austin White, freshman Rondell Evans of Vicksburg and junior Will Bryer of Southaven won first place. Second place was awarded to the DSU Flute Trio, comprised of freshman Jessica Egdorf of Hernando, JJ Hatfield, and Robyn Rouse.

The students were accompanied by collaborative pianists Dr. Jung-Won Shin, Jessica Taylor of Batesville, and Katy Saxton-Koehler.

The saxophonists are students of Dr. Bret Pimentel, and the flutists study with Dr. Shelley Collins. Ms. Saxton-Koehler is a student of Dr. Jung-Won Shin.



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## Delta State Department of Music hosts Mississippi NATS Conference

The Spring of 2010 was a busy time for the voice faculty. Dr. Buchanan, Dr. Herron and Dr. Meerdink hosted the MS State National Association of Teachers of Singing conference and competition in April, 2010. Approximately ten community colleges and universities were represented as well as the MS School of the Arts and several private voice instructors. The weekend also included the MS and Tri-State Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing Solo Artist's competitions. Many beautiful voices were discovered and each participant learned more about their voice and their vocal potential.

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## The First Annual Chamber Ensemble Competition

The Department of Music held its first annual chamber ensemble competition during convocation hour on March 4, 2010. The competition originated from the idea of promoting the important role of the collaborative pianist, whose responsibilities are different from those of a solo pianist. The event focused on the collaborative nature of the pianist's work but was open to all instrumental musicians. The participants created small ensembles, rehearsed, had coaching sessions, and performed at the competition. The process required them to utilize organizational and rehearsal skills. Each chamber group member was responsible for learning their own part and how it fit into the ensemble, for attending scheduled rehearsals, for listening critically to each other to make a better ensemble, and for rehearsing more efficiently.

The audience enjoyed the well-mannered and well-prepared performances. One of the great things in this ensemble competition was that all participating ensembles included at least one freshman. It is often difficult for freshmen to experience public performances on stage at the early stage of their study at university. However, performing in an ensemble might have made the experience friendlier for them. All music faculty members available during the convocation judged the competition, giving valuable comments to the ensemble groups. The DSU Flute Trio and the Delta State Saxophone Quartet shared first place. After the competition, the participants spoke about their experiences in the preparation process, which was of benefit to their fellow students in the audience.

The second ensemble competition has been scheduled for February 17, 2011. All music students, including music minors, are eligible to participate.

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## The Sound of Music in Biloxi

Drs. Shelley Collins, Jung-Won Shin, and Christopher Meerdink traveled to Biloxi to present "Technology in Music Education: Video Self-Assessment and Podcasting" at Mississippi's largest educational technology gathering, the 2010 *Creating Futures Through Technology Conference*.

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## "Fighting Okra" Marching Band On The Move

The Pride of the Delta Marching Band will be marching in exhibition in Memphis at the Briarcrest High School Marching Band competition on Saturday, September 18. Approximately 1000 high school students should be in attendance.

<http://music.deltastate.edu>

## MUSIC EVENTS

<b>Faculty Recital:</b> Dr. Bret Pimentel, woodwinds Dr. Kumiko Shimizu, piano	August 31	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Guest Artist Recital:</b> Amy Yeung, soprano Dr. Jung-Won Shin, piano	September 21	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Faculty Recital:</b> An Evening of Trombone Works Old & New Dr. Douglas Mark, trombone, Dr. Jung-Won Shin, piano & Ms. Anne-Gaëlle Ravetto, violin	October 12	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Chamber Singers:</b> Homecoming Veterans Celebration Dr. Mary Lenn Buchanan, soprano, Dr. Mark Butler, piano	October 16	11:00 AM	Jobe Hall
<b>Guest Artist Recital:</b> Piano Duo Recital Jungwon Anne Shin, piano & Dr. Jung-Won Shin, piano	October 18	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Junior Recital:</b> Austin White, saxophone	October 28	1:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Opera</b>	October 28	1:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Band Showcase</b>	November 2	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
<b>Senior Recital:</b> Chiquita Allen, soprano & Heather Bunkley, soprano	November 4	1:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Fall Choir Concert</b> Chamber Singers & Chorale	November 4	7:30 PM	Kent Wyatt Hall
<b>MS Music Teachers Association Conference &amp; Competition</b>	November 4-6		D&PL Theatre
<b>Low Brass Ensembles Concert</b>	November 9	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Senior Recital:</b> Steven Hugley, saxophone	November 11	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Woodwind Chamber Ensembles Concert</b>	November 15	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Jazz Ensemble Concert</b>	November 16	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
<b>Senior Recital:</b> Brad Ballard, tuba, Andy Beasley, baritone & JJ Hatfield, flute	November 18	1:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Percussion Ensemble &amp; Steel Band</b>	November 18	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
<b>Senior Recital:</b> Virginia McDaniel, horn & Eric Perry, trombone	December 2	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Holiday Choir Concert:</b> Chamber Singers, Chorale & Delta Singers	December 5	4:00 PM	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, MS
<b>Piano Prep Program:</b> Student Holiday Recital	December 11	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Honor Band Clinic</b>	January 20-22		D&PL Theatre
<b>DSU Honor Choir Clinic</b>	February 11-13		D&PL Theatre

The Recital Hall and the Delta and Pine Land (D&PL) Theatre are in the Bologna Performing Arts Center on the DSU Campus.  
Programs are subject to change. To verify, please call 662-846-4615.



Department of Music  
P. O. Box 3256  
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