

# Music Notes

Delta State University  
Department of Music  
Fall 2009  
Volume 7, Issue 1

Greetings Music Alumni and Friends:

Well, another summer has passed us by and I imagine that you are back to the normal routine. I trust you enjoyed some time off with friends and family. I enjoyed spending some time in Montana. My family has a small cherry orchard located on beautiful Flathead Lake in NW Montana, just an hour or so south of Glacier National Park and the Canadian border. Working the cherry harvest and taking in the mountain air is always refreshing and rejuvenating. But it is nice to be back in Cleveland again, and as the new academic year begins, new and returning students and faculty are settling in to the hectic routine of school. I guess one could say that music is in the air again in Zeigel Hall!

Since the last edition of Music Notes, Dr. Andrea Cheeseman announced she had accepted a position at Appalachian State University. Andrea is a respected teacher and musician, and has been a valued member of this faculty for 8 years. Congratulations and best wishes to Andrea. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the students and the department at Delta State.

With the departure of Andrea, we began the search process for a new faculty member. We had an excellent pool of applicants. From that pool one candidate rose to the top, and we are indeed happy that he accepted the invitation to join us. I am pleased to introduce and welcome Dr. Bret Pimentel, Assistant Professor of Woodwinds, to our faculty. He recently completed his D.M.A. in Multiple Woodwinds Performance at the University of Georgia, Athens. I know you will enjoy meeting him. You can learn more about Bret elsewhere in this newsletter.

In a special announcement, Bruce Levingston, pianist and Cleveland native, has returned to DSU as Visiting Artist in the Humanities. Bruce has garnered acclaim as a classical pianist and recording artist, and is considered one of today's leading figures in contemporary music. As visiting Artist, Bruce will be involved in projects and activities that will include concert performances and lectures and master classes on campus and in the community at large. Even now, the piano faculty and Bruce are in the planning stages for several events and collaborations for the near future. Bruce will be a wonderful ambassador for the advancement of music and the arts at DSU and in the Delta. Welcome back, Bruce.

Finally, it is again hard not to brag on our faculty and students. The degree of artistic and educational excellence and the commitment to the advancement of the arts and the profession that one finds in the music department is second to none. Potential students know that they will be a part of something special when they consider music at DSU. However, in recent years it has become increasingly apparent that students are making decisions to attend DSU based not on just the quality of our music program and the opportunities it provides, but the availability of scholarship dollars and other funds to reduce the total cost of attending. Students also expect facilities that are attractive and offer access to quality pianos, musical instruments, and other performance and instructional materials. We are fortunate to be in a position to financially assist many students of music and provide the musical equipment necessary to serve them. But we must develop additional resources that will allow us to improve our ability to assist students of music and ensure the availability of first class facilities and instruments. During the next months we will be exploring avenues that will provide a means for us to join together in meeting this need. I know you will want to be part of this endeavor when the opportunity arises.

Enjoy catching up with all the news!

Best Always,  
Paul Hankins. Chair

## New Faculty

**Dr. Bret Pimentel** joined the music faculty of Delta State University in 2009, where he teaches applied oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and saxophone. He is at home with the classical solo repertoire of all the woodwind instruments, as well as chamber and symphonic music, jazz, and rock and pop. In addition to the major modern woodwinds, he is skilled at a number of folk, ethnic, and period woodwinds.

Dr. Pimentel's varied career has included performances as a backing musician for Dave Brubeck, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the King's Singers, the O'Jays, Ed Calle, Mimi Fox, Kelly Eisenhour, and more. His regular performing groups have included the Xenos Quartet, Countdown to Ecstasy, and the Georgia Double Reed Ensemble.

In 2009, he received the degree Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Georgia, with an emphasis in multiple woodwinds performance. His dissertation research dealt with the use of folk, ethnic, and period woodwinds in film and theater music. His master's degree, also in multiple woodwinds performance, is from Indiana University, and his bachelor's degree, in saxophone performance, is from Brigham Young University.



Bret has taught applied woodwind lessons at Clemson University and Brigham Young University, and woodwind methods courses at the University of Georgia.

Visit his website: <http://www.bretpimentel.com>

## Faculty News

**Dr. Larry Bradford**, Assistant Band Director and Assistant Professor of Music, spent the first summer term in Guinea, West Africa studying African drumming and dance. While in Africa, the group participated in daily djembe and dun-dun drumming classes, balafon lessons, and dance classes with renowned African drummers and dancers. Authentic balafons and djembe drums were purchased and brought back to DSU for use in classes and ensembles.

**Dr. Mark Butler**, Professor of Music, recently reviewed several chapters of a new introductory text in music education for upcoming publication, at the request of Routledge publishers.

Butler attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education, April 15-17, 2009 in Gainesville, FL. The event was sponsored by the School of Music at the University of Florida. Key note speakers were icons of music education in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Other participants gave papers and made presentations concerning a broad gamut of issues regarding assessment of music learning and performance.

In June, Dr. Butler was the guest organist for a celebratory mass at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church in Cleveland, MS honoring their pastor Father Sean Atkinson on the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Butler also attended the 34<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy, a national conference for church musicians and clergy supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, held July 27 to August 2, 2009 in Canton, MS. Butler is the registrar and treasurer for the conference.

**Dr. Shelley Collins**, Assistant Professor of Flute and Music History, served as principal flute of the Glacier Symphony in Montana in July. Collins, who has recently been elected Vice-President of the Mid-South Flute Society, also serves as the Secretary of the National Flute Association. She attended the NFA convention in New York City in August, where she attended board meetings, enjoyed some inspiring performances, and played with 1,989 flutists, breaking the Guinness record for the world's largest flute ensemble.

**Dr. Teri A. Herron**, Assistant Professor of Music, presented a guest lecture entitled "Music in American Culture: The Manufacture of Folk Music in the United States" in July at Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis.

**Dr. Douglas Mark**, Assistant Professor of Low Brass, was Principal Trombone in the Mississippi Wind Symphony this past summer. The ensemble performed concerts at Mississippi College and Ridgeland High School. He also served as a faculty member at the Mississippi Summer Arts Institute.

**Dr. Christopher Meerdink**, Assistant Professor of Music, served as the music director for Evanston Light Opera Works in the greater Chicago area this summer. Over the course of seven weeks the staff of Evanston LOW mounted four adapted musical theater productions for the Evanston Community. Dr. Meerdink Co-chairs the Committee for Youth Opera for the National Opera Association.

While in the Chicago area this summer, Dr. Meerdink performed the role of Koko in Gilbert and Sullivan's, *The Mikado*. The performance was part of the summer performance series for the Music Institute of Chicago under the direction of Maestro Daniel Wallenberg.

**Dr. Jung-Won Shin**, Assistant Professor of Music, presented a piano duo recital with Dr. Jacob Clark at the Levine School of Music in Washington D.C. on June 25, 2009. Dr. Shin and Dr. Clark will present another piano duo recital at Delta State University, as part of a piano duo series, on September 21, 2009.

Dr. Shin also participated in the Orford Summer Music Academy and Festival in Canada on June 28-July 11, 2009. During the festival, she performed at the Rising Star Concert series, broadcast live on the radio in Canada.

**Dr. Richard Waters**, Associate Professor of Music, was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Music. He was recently named Artistic Director of The Mississippi Chorus in Jackson and was elected President-Elect of the Mississippi chapter of ACDA.

**Dr. John Wojcik**, Associate Professor of Music, was invited to submit a Teacher Resource Guide on *Caccia and Chorale* by Clifton Williams for the Volume 1 revision of the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series. The Teacher Resource Guide includes an analysis of the composition, historical information about the work and information about the composer. The revised Volume 1 will be published in the near future.

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## Choral Activities

### CHORALE INVITED TO PERFORM AT ACDA

The DSU Chorale has been invited to perform at the 2010 Southern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). The conference will take place March 10-13, 2010 in Memphis, TN; the performance will be held in the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, home of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. In order to be invited, the choir had to submit recordings from the last three years. The recordings were then reviewed by a blind audition panel, consisting of directors whose choirs have previously performed at regional and/or national ACDA conferences. The Southern Division of ACDA includes eleven states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Eighty-two choirs from across the region submitted recordings for consideration. Of these, fifteen choirs were selected, including only five college/university choirs. This is the first time that a choir from Delta State has been invited to perform at an ACDA Southern Division Conference.

### CHOIRS RELEASE FIFTH CD RECORDING

The choral program recently released their fifth compact disc – “Every Voice in Concert Ring,” recorded by the DSU Chorale. The recording features music by a wide variety of composers, including David N. Childs, Morten Lauridsen, Norman Luboff, Igor Stravinsky, Frank Ticheli, and Eric Whitacre. The choir is accompanied on several pieces by Dr. Kumiko Shimizu, and on one piece by the DSU Steel Band, led by Dr. Larry Bradford. The CD features several pieces from a February 2009 recording session in Kent Wyatt Hall, as well as other selections recorded live in concert from 2008 and 2009.

Proceeds from the sale of these recordings will go towards the upcoming choir trip to Europe (see below). The cost of each CD is \$15 plus shipping; cash and checks are accepted. Copies are available at all DSU choir concerts, or may be ordered from the Department of Music website.

### CHOIRS PLAN TOUR TO AUSTRIA & CZECH REPUBLIC

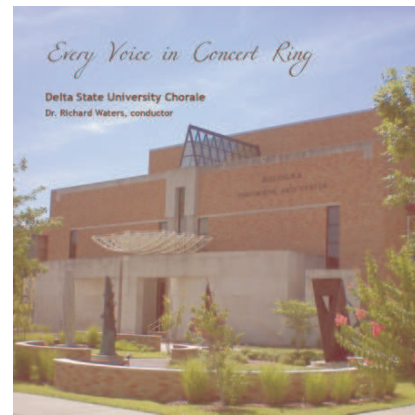
Plans are underway for a ten-day tour of Austria and the Czech Republic in May 2010, with performances in Salzburg, Vienna, and Prague. The itinerary also includes guided tours through many historical sites including: Mozart’s birthplace, Dom Cathedral, Vienna Imperial Palace, Vienna State Opera, St. Vitus Cathedral, and the Collection of Musical Instruments in Hofburg, which is home to the personal instruments of Beethoven, Brahms, Haydn, Mahler, Mozart, and Schubert. The students are preparing to pay for whatever portion of the cost is not covered through fundraising or university monies. If you would like to contribute to this outstanding cause, please contact Dr. Richard Waters at [rwaters@deltastate.edu](mailto:rwaters@deltastate.edu) or (662) 846-4115. Thank you for your support!

*Music Notes* is edited by 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

### UPCOMING CHOIR CONCERTS

Join all three DSU choirs for the Fall Choir Concert on Sunday, November 8 at 3:30 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cleveland. Students from DSU’s Chamber Singers, Chorale, and Delta Singers will present music by Eric Barnum, Johannes Brahms, Benjamin Britten, Aaron Copland, Arvo Pärt, and much more. This concert is free and open to the public.

The DSU Chorale will join forces with The Mississippi Chorus and members of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra to present Handel’s “Messiah” on Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m. at the Bologna Performing Arts Center as part of the BPAC’s Mainstage Season. The concert will be led by Dr. Richard Waters and will feature DSU voice professors Dr. Teri A. Herron and Dr. Christopher Meerdink, as well as Sarah Mabary and James Martin. For ticket information, visit: [www.bolognapac.com](http://www.bolognapac.com) or contact the BPAC Box Office at (662) 846-4626.



## Our Alumni Report...

**Stephen Bush (BME 2008)** was recently appointed to the position of Director of Bands at the Washington School in Greenville, MS.

**Katie (Renacker) Foxworthy (BME 2005)** and her husband Paul had a baby boy, Colin Daniel Foxworthy on December 15, 2008. She writes "Paul and I are living in Tupelo. He is a pilot for Pinnacle Airlines and I am teaching at Tupelo Middle School."

**Joel Hosey (BME 2007)** served as Assistant Band Director at Meridian High School in Meridian, MS 2008-2009. He is now the Director of Bands at Meridian High School. In addition to his duties at the high school, he is responsible for supervising Carver Middle School, Kate Griffin Middle School, Northwest Middle School and their concert bands. He gives lessons for jazz and classical saxophone, flute, trombone and trumpet.

**Andrew Owen (BA 2009)** received Delta State's "first diploma" at the May 2009 Commencement. He is pursuing a Master of Music degree in Musicology at Louisiana State University and is working as a graduate assistant for a junior-level music history course.

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## Calling All Alumni!!!!

In Spring, 2009 the Delta State University Department of Music recognized Mr. Robert Sims as Alumnus of the Year. Mr. Sims teaches choral music at Terry High School in Terry, Mississippi. He was recognized for his outstanding success in high school choral music as evidenced by his ensembles success at contest, auditions, and as the recipient of numerous awards bestowed by his colleagues, peers, and administration. We congratulate Mr. Sims on his success and are pleased that this DSU graduate, our colleague, is making his mark on the musical world. The Department also recognized Julie Jackson for her service to the Department. Ms. Jackson has given much of her time for the betterment of the Music Department and we are truly grateful. For more information on the Alumnus/a of the Year Award, the nomination process, and other Delta State University Department of Music awards, please read the accompanying article.

### 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 [cmeerdink@deltastate.edu](mailto:cmeerdink@deltastate.edu), or by regular mail to: Dr. Christopher Meerdink, Delta State University, Department of Music, Box 3256, Cleveland, MS 38733. All nomination forms must be received or postmarked by December 1, 2009.

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### Concert Opportunities

#### Piano Duo Recital Series 2009-2010

The Department of Music will present a piano duo recital series during the 2009-2010 academic year. Each recital will feature a guest artist and a member of the DSU piano faculty:

Part I: Dr. Rika Uchida & Dr. Kumiko Shimizu, Recital Hall, BPAC, August 31, at 7:30pm  
Part II: Dr. Jacob Clark & Dr. Jung-Won Shin, Recital Hall, BPAC, Sept. 21, at 7:30pm.  
Part III: Mr. Michael Shuman & Dr. Karen Fosheim, Recital Hall, BPAC, Spring 2010

The programs will include works for four hands or two pianos by Albéniz, Bowles, Debussy, Diabelli, Copland, Dvořák, Françaix, Guastavino, Milhaud, Ravel, Schubert, and more.

The performances are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the music office at (662) 846-4615.

### Scholarship Auditions:

Know anyone who is interested in joining the DSU Band or Choir? 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 19, 2010; 10:00 am  
Friday, March 26, 2010; 10:00 am  
Friday, April 23, 2010; 10:00 am

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

<http://music.deltastate.edu>



### DSU African Drumming Troupe Visits Guinea, West Africa

In June 2009, a group of students and faculty from Delta State University spent 30 days studying traditional African drumming, dance, and local culture in Guinea, West Africa. While there, the group stayed in a private home in the capital city of Conakry, a city of two million. Music faculty on the trip were Dr. Larry Bradford and Dr. Karen Fosheim, and students Gene Kachenovich and David Mason. Also on the trip were Dr. Alan Barton, Sociology, Julie Green, grad student in sociology, Abena Seward, student in HPER, Wally Wooten, Shelby, MS, and Olugbala Manns, Kent, Ohio.

Daily drumming classes were offered under the tutelage of master Guinean drummers Amara Camara, Sekou Sano, and Ballaket Cissoko. The group took daily dance classes with Salimatou Camara and the famed Yamoussa Souma, former dancer with Les Ballets Africains. Members of the group also studied balafon with Ishmael Camara, and witnessed a doundoun playing exhibition given by master drummer Sabou Njouma. The Americans were also special guests at performances by *Les Ballet Merveilles des Guinea* and the popular Guinean group *Les Etoiles de Boulbinet*. Members of the group also attended many other local concerts and dundunba festivals.

Weekend excursions were taken to the island of Kassa off the coast of Conakry and to the beautiful mountain region of Kindia. Other highlights of the trip include a tour of the military compound that houses the offices of the president and vice president of Guinea and a trip to the United States Embassy in Conakry. Prior to their arrival in Guinea, the group spent a weekend touring the beautiful city of Paris, France.



*Taken on the island of Kassa*

L-R Americans David Mason, Gene Kachenovich, Olu Manns, Wally Wooten, Julie Green, Larry Bradford, Karen Fosheim, Abena Seward, Alan Barton, Kneeling: Guinean drumming instructor Ballaket Cissoko

## Percussion Area

### Wrap up of 2008-2009 School Year

The DSU Music Department hosted Dr. Ellie Mannette on Thursday, April 9, 2009. Dr. Mannette is Professor of Pan Music at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, and is considered to be the “Father of the Steel Drum”. He was the first to use a 55-gallon oil barrel and the process of sinking the drum in the concave shape in 1946. Dr. Mannette gave a clinic/performance for everyone who attended and a master class with the DSU Steel Band. This was a great opportunity for the students to get to meet and talk with the creator of this wonderful instrument.

Highlights from the year include a steel band performance at the 2009 Mississippi Day of Percussion held at Jackson State University in March. The spring tour included performances at Pearl River Community College, Columbia High School, Copiah Lincoln Community College, and North Pike High School. The ensemble also performed at the Goombay Caribbean Festival in Pensacola Florida on Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, 2009. The DSU steel band shared the stage with other groups from USM, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Mississippi, and Florida State University.



*Dr. Ellie Mannette (center), “Father of the Steel Drum”*

### Music Department Team Contributes Funds to the 2009 Relay for Life

The Percussion Ensemble and Steel Band performed both on and off campus throughout the year.

The DSU Music Department “Relay for Life” Team was successful in raising funds for the annual cancer awareness event held April 24, 2009 at Shumate Park on campus. Team members collected donations online and in person in the amount of \$2100, a \$600 increase from the 2008 effort. At the park, the team set up pavilions with a “Moroccan” theme complete with its resident belly-dancer, Dr. Teri Herron, voice professor. Members brought food and drinks to carry out the selected theme of “Rock the Kasbah to Fight Cancer.” Dr. Karen Fosheim, professor of music, served as the emcee for the evening, prompting all the evening’s participants to stay involved. Music was provided by the department’s Community Drumming Ensemble (African dance and drumming), led by Fosheim, the DMI’s Ol’ Skool Revue, and several other groups throughout the evening. The team hopes more people will donate and participate in 2010. Dr. Mark Butler, professor of music, serves as Team Captain. Donations will be collected beginning in the spring semester.

<http://music.deltastate.edu>

<b>Faculty Recital:</b> Christopher Meerdink, tenor and Kumiko Shimizu, piano	Aug. 25	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Guest Artist:</b> Piano Duo Recital Series, Part I Rika Uchida, piano and Kumiko Shimizu, piano	Aug. 31	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Marching Band:</b> half-time performance	Sept. 19	6:00 pm	Travis Parker Field
<b>Guest Artist:</b> Piano Duo Recital Series, Part II Jacob Clark and Jung-Won Shin	Sept. 21	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Trombone Guest Recital:</b> An Evening with David Dick, MS Sym. Orch. and Anthony Williams, Jackson (TN) Sym. Orch.	Sept. 29	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Marching Band:</b> half-time performance	Oct. 1	7:00 pm	Travis Parker Field
<b>DSU Opera Performance</b>	Oct. 8	1:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Marching Band:</b> Pearl Regional Marching Band Contest	Oct. 10		Pearl, MS
<b>Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia American Music Recital</b>	Oct. 12	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Faculty Recital:</b> Teri Herron, soprano, Christopher Meerdink, tenor, Kumiko Shimizu and Jung-Won Shin, piano	Oct. 13	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Marching Band:</b> half-time performance	Oct. 24	3:00 pm	Travis Parker Field
<b>Faculty Recital:</b> Douglas Mark, trombone & Karen Fosheim, piano	Oct. 27	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Guest Recital:</b> SFC Matthew Wozniak, bass trombone	Nov. 3	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Senior Recitals:</b> Mandi King, percussion and Meg Dennis, mezzo-soprano	Nov. 5	1:40 pm	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Woodwind Chamber Ensembles</b>	Nov. 5	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Marching Band:</b> half-time performance	Nov. 7	4:00 pm	Travis Parker Field
<b>Fall Choir Concert</b>	Nov. 8	3:30 pm	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cleveland
<b>DSU Community Drumming Experience</b>	Nov. 9	7:30 pm	DSU Union, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
<b>DSU Band Showcase</b>	Nov. 10	7:30 pm	D&PL
<b>Low Brass Ensembles Concert</b>	Nov. 16	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Percussion and Steel Band</b>	Nov. 17	7:30 pm	D&PL
<b>Senior Recital:</b> Joe Raymond, trombone	Nov. 19	1:40 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Junior Recital:</b> Dominique Smith, soprano	Nov. 19	1:40 pm	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Jazz Ensemble</b>	Nov. 19	7:30 pm	D&PL
<b>Handel's "Messiah":</b> DSU Chorale & The Mississippi Chorus	Dec. 6	4:00 pm	D&PL
<b>Metropolitan Opera Auditions:</b> MS & West TN District	Jan. 9	10:00 am	D&PL
<b>Guest Artist:</b> George Hogan	Jan. 19	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Honor Band Clinic:</b>	Jan. 21-Jan. 23		
DSU Wind Ensemble	Jan. 22	7:30 pm	D&PL
DSU Honor Band Concert	Jan. 23	2:00 pm	D&PL
<b>Guest Artist:</b> Ian Hominick, piano	Jan. 25	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Faculty Recital:</b> Chopin Recital Series, Part I; Jung-Won Shin, piano	Feb. 2	7:30 pm	Recital Hall
<b>Faculty Recital:</b> Karen Fosheim, piano & Anne-Gaëlle Ravetto, violin	Feb. 9	7:30 pm	Recital Hall

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

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