

Music Notes

Delta State University
Department of Music
Spring 2008
Volume 5, Issue 2

Greetings to the alumni and friends of the Department of Music. I hope all is well with you in the New Year. We already find ourselves well into the semester, and before you can blink, summer will be here.



I am pleased to report the continued success of the DSU Honor Band and Honor Choir weekends. Nearly 250 students from around the state participated in rehearsals and sectionals with guest conductors and our music faculty. These events are always a highlight for us. It is a pleasure to see the students, parents, and directors engaged musically and personally on our campus.

A bit of new news: DSU has invited Dr. Ann Lotven to serve as our new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Dr. Lotven will be visiting our department in the near future to meet our faculty. This is a positive sign for the University and our Department. We look forward to her leadership and support of the Music Department.

As always, we enjoy hearing the latest news from each of you. Seeing the new baby pictures or hearing about what is going on with you in general is a pleasure. Please be sure to keep us posted on the latest happenings!

Paul Hankins, Interim Chair

Low Brass Studio Celebrates:

This past holiday season was made a little brighter by members of the DSU Low Brass Holiday Troupe. Led by Dr. Douglas Mark, Assistant Professor of Low Brass, the troupe performed traditional holiday favorites throughout the Cleveland community, and at several locations on the DSU campus. Members of the group included Brad Ballard, Andy Beasley, David Cunningham, James Koestler, Dr. Mark, and special guest conductor...the Fighting Okra!



Attention Alumni:

We have gotten many responses from our alumni with address corrections and information. Many thanks! If you have not done so, using the form below, please send us your address and contact information to help us keep our files accurate. It can either be mailed or sent electronically to acheesmn@deltastate.edu.

We always enjoy hearing about what our alumni are doing, so include a sentence or two about your current activities if you would like. It will be added to the Alumni News section in the next newsletter. We highly value DSU Music Alumni. Please let us know if there's anything we can do for you!

Name:	Instrument/Voice:
Address:	Year of graduation:
Degree:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Mail form to:
Dr. Andrea Cheeseman
P. O. Box 3256
Delta State University
Cleveland, MS 38733



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 22, 2008; 10:00 am
Friday, March 28, 2008; 10:00 am (instrumental only)
Friday, April 11, 2008; 10:00 am
Friday, April 25, 2008; 10:00 am

Faculty News

Dr. Andrea Cheeseman, Assistant Professor of Music, was invited to present at the 2008 South Central-Southern SuperRegional Conference of the College Music Society held in February at Louisiana State University. Her presentation, "Musicians as Athletes" focused on common injuries musicians sustain and methods of prevention and rehabilitation. She also facilitated an open forum at the conference on occupational health.

Dr. Shelley Collins, Assistant Professor of Flute and Musicology, was invited to perform on the Guest Artist Recital Series at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville and performed as a guest artist and clinician at TTU's Flute Day, including a presentation on business strategies for private flute studio teachers. She also gave a presentation for Southern Mississippi University's

Flute Day, "Effective Practicing: Maximizing Your Performance Potential." Collins presented a program on women in music from the Early Common Era through 1600, entitled "The First Girl Groups': Evolving Roles of Women in European Art Music," for the February DSU First Tuesday program series sponsored by the DSU departments of Art and Music. Her reviews of three recent sheet music publications were recently published in *Flutist Quarterly*, the journal of the National Flute Association.

Dr. Karen Fosheim, Professor of Music, studied African music during a sabbatical in the Cleveland, Ohio area in the Fall of 2007. Dr. Fosheim studied with noted Congolese scholar, Kazadi wa Makuna, at Kent State University where she took a graduate course in Pan-African Music and Culture and participated in the Kent State African Ensemble.

Dr. Fosheim participated in an intensive program of private study in djembe drumming techniques and West African

rhythms for djembe ensemble with Master Drummer Olugbala Manns. She also participated in the Hiram College African drumming ensemble led by Manns.

This spring, Dr. Fosheim is leading an African djembe ensemble at Delta State. It is available to DSU students and also open to the Cleveland community through Continuing Education.

Dr. Paul Hankins, Professor of Trumpet and interim chair, co-presented a session titled "Measure for Measure: Using Engagement Research for Institutional Direction and Improvement" at the 7th Annual International Conference on Service-Learning research in Tampa, FL.

Dr. Richard Waters', Assistant Professor of Music, article "The Carols of Harold Darke: More Than *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*" was published in the October 2007 issue of *Choral Journal*, the national monthly journal of the American Choral Directors Association.

Dr. Karen Fosheim and her African djembe ensemble



Band Area

Annual Wind Ensemble Tour

The DSU Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. John Wojcik will be on tour Tuesday and Wednesday, February 19-20. The tour will begin with a performance at Warren Central High School on February 19 at 11:00 and will continue with performances at Clinton High School and Petal High School. The tour will conclude with a performance at Jones County Junior College on February 20 at 3:00.

Honor Band

The 2008 DSU Honor Band Clinic was held January 24-26. One hundred students from Mississippi and Arkansas representing 30 high schools took part. The clinician was Dr. Acton Ostling Jr., Director of Bands, Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Louisville. The students also had the opportunity to work with the DSU instrumental faculty on the Friday afternoon of the Clinic. For the concert, the band performed *Epinicion* by John Paulson, *A Copland Portrait* adapted by Clare Grundman, *Connecticut Regiment March* by D. W. Reeves and *Wayfaring Stranger* by Steve Rouse. A highlight of the concert was a performance of *Three Preludes* by George Gershwin. Senior DSU Bachelor of Music Piano major LeMorris Hunt performed the first and third preludes, which were originally for piano, and the band played an arrangement of the second.

Choral Activities

DSU Hosts Annual Honor Choir Festival

Over 140 high school students from across Mississippi gathered on the Delta State University campus for the annual Honor Choir festival on February 8-10. These talented students were selected by audition to participate in the festival by members of the DSU music faculty.

This year's guest conductor was Dr. Betsy Cook Weber, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Undergraduate Choral Studies at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston. Dr. Kumiko Shimizu, Assistant Professor of Piano, served as the accompanist. The weekend concluded with a well-received performance at the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Thanks to all who participated!

Chorale Prepares for Trip to Washington, DC

Preparations are nearing completion for the Chorale's trip to Washington, DC to perform at Washington National Cathedral. The choir will sing a 25-minute prelude prior to the afternoon Evensong service on Sunday, March 9th, at 3:30 p.m. Look for a complete summary of our trip in the fall newsletter.

Spring Choir Concert

The Chamber Singers, Chorale, and Delta Singers, will present their spring concert on Sunday, April 27 at 3:00 p.m. in the Bologna Performing Arts Center. The theme of the concert is "Songs of Love, Sorrow, Humor, and Celebration," highlighting the many different ways that music speaks to us, featuring music by Jeffery Ames, Johannes Brahms, David Brunner, David Childs, Donald McCullough, Eric Nelson, Mack Wilberg, and Eric Whitacre. The concert is free and open to the public. Thank you for supporting our choirs!

Opera

The Delta State Opera, under the direction of Dr. Mary Lenn Buchanan, presented an exciting production November 2007 at First United Methodist Church in Cleveland, MS. The student performers presented scenes from *Hansel and Gretel* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. Besides the two scenes, the students also staged two complete productions – Claude Debussy's *L'enfant prodigue* and a Christmas work titled Good King Wenceslas. The undergraduates were joined by voice faculty member Dr. Christopher Meerdink and graduate student Robin Washington.

There is no rest in the world of opera. Either a singer is practicing for a role or performing one. Therefore, DSU Opera students have already begun their preparation for an afternoon of opera scenes to be presented March 6, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Bologna Performing Arts Center Recital Hall. Included in their concert will be scenes from *Carmen*, *The Bartered Bride*, *Manon*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and *Dido and Aeneas*.

April 14, 2008 will find the DSU opera students joining music students at Mississippi Valley State University in a staged presentation of *Free At Last* (A Portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr.) by Lena McLin.

Our Alumni Report...

Eileen Carey Jennings, (2007) is pursuing a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. Eileen recently distinguished herself by winning the MS/West TN District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. She advanced to the Mid-South Regional auditions in Memphis, TN where she was awarded an encouragement award and named a regional semi-finalist.

Walter (Danny) Robinson, (1970) retired in August of 2007 after 31+ years with social security administration and is still involved in church music, handbells and two community bands.

Doug Scarborough, (BME - 1992, MME - 1995) completed his DA in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Northern Colorado. After ten years of recording and performing original music, he left Denver for a one-year position teaching low brass and jazz studies at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA. Currently, he teaches theory and composition at Washington and Lee University in Virginia.

Jeff Triplett, (2000) is currently teaching in the Music Department at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, MS. He resides in Coldwater, MS with his wife Laura, and three children, Madison (7), Aubrey (6) and Elisabeth (5).

Matt Walker, (2006) is the Band Director at Enterprise High School in Enterprise, MS near Meridian. Enterprise is a 2A school that has had a band program for only 4 years. He is responsible for the High School Marching Band and Concert Band, the 6th Grade Band, and the 7th Grade Band. He also teaches a General Music class at the High School. This year (2007) marks the first time that Enterprise Marching Band qualified for the State Marching Championship.

Laura (McCormick) Weirich, (2003) is currently living in Tucson where she is a youth minister at St. Odilia Catholic Community. She directs the Junior High Youth Group, High School Youth Group, and the Confirmation Class. She was married July 7, 2007 to John Weirich of Washington, Missouri.

DSU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Faculty Recital: Douglas Mark, trombone Anne-Gaëlle Ravetto, violin	Feb 12	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Faculty Recital: Christopher Meerdink, tenor Karen Fosheim, piano	Feb. 25	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Steel Band Tour	February 25 – 26		
Guest Artist: Jaunelle Celaire, soprano	Feb. 26	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Faculty Recital: Larry Bradford, percussion	Feb. 28	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Opera Performance	March 6	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
Wind Ensemble Concert	March 6	7:30 PM	D & PL Theatre
Chorale Spring Tour	March 8 – 11		Washington DC
Faculty Recital: Delta Chamber Players	March 2	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Guest Artist: Caroline Helton, soprano Emory Stephens, baritone	March 31	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Percussion Symposium	April 5	All day	Zeigel
Faculty Trio: Andrea Cheeseman, clarinet Anne-Gaëlle Ravetto, violin Lois Hobbs Yu, piano	April 7	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Faculty/Alumnus Recital: Karen Fosheim, piano duo Michael Shuman	April 8	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Brass Chamber Ensemble Concert	April 10	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Percussion Ensemble & Steel Band Concert	April 14	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Junior Recital: LeMorris Hunt, piano	April 17	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
Jazz Ensemble Concert	April 17	7:30 PM	D & PL Theatre
Guest Artist: Tess Remy-Schumacher, cello Lois Hobbs Yu, piano	April 19	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Faculty Recital: Christopher Meerdink, tenor	April 20	3:00 PM	Recital Hall
Woodwind Chamber Ensembles	April 21	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Senior Recitals: Chris Darracott, saxophone Desta Hallmark, percussion	April 24	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
Student Composition Showcase	April 24	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Spring Choir Concert	April 27	3:00 PM	D & PL Theatre
2007-2008 Honors Recital	April 28	7:30 PM	D & PL Theatre
DSU Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band Concert	April 29	7:30 PM	D & PL Theatre

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 or visit <http://music.deltastate.edu>