

# Music Notes

Delta State University  
Department of Music  
Spring 2009  
Volume 6, Issue 2

Greetings, Music Alumni and Friends:



As you peruse this edition of *Music Notes*, you will find faculty and students have been engaged in numerous activities and events in the past months and will be equally engaged in the coming days. These musical and professional accomplishments are indicative of the excellence and leadership within in the department. I would like to comment on a particularly meaningful event. In the previous issue of *Music Notes* you learned that several departments across campus, including the Music Department, were collaborating to present a series of events commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conclusion of WWI. The series featured an art exhibit, a performance of Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*, and concluded with a Concert of Remembrance. The rare performance of the *Quartet*, followed by the intermingled readings, visual media and photography, and musical performances in the Concert, proved to be a moving and powerful tribute to a horrific time in history. Music faculty and students performed superbly. Many thanks are in order to all those involved.

On a sad note, many of you will remember Michael Ewald, professor of trumpet here at Delta State from 1976 to 1982. It is with personal sorrow that I tell you that a sudden illness and untimely death befell Michael. He passed away on September 12, 2008. Michael was a fine teacher, friend, and human being.

It is in the news on a daily basis. The financial crisis that emerged in September and the resulting fallout is touching nearly every segment of our society in one way or another. Also, the current shortfall in tax revenues collected by the state and the subsequent budget reductions will create challenges at all levels of higher education for the current semester, and likely for several years to come. Uncertainty abounds. In the midst of this, however, there remains one certainty: the uncompromising commitment to provide an excellent musical and educational experience for our students. We will continue to foster innovation in our programs and advance a vital and progressive agenda in fulfilling our mission. There has never been a better time to attend DSU. You can be confident in supporting and recommending DSU to your students, colleagues, and friends.

Best always,  
Paul Hankins, Chair

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## 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 also be set up by appointment. Contact Dr. John Wojcik (662-846-4629) or Dr. Richard Waters (662-846-4115) for more information.

Friday, February 27, 2009; 10:00 am  
Friday, March 27, 2009; 10:00 am  
Friday, April 17, 2009; 10:00 am (instrumental only)  
Friday, April 24, 2009; 10:00 am

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

<http://music.deltastate.edu>

## Faculty News

**Dr. Andrea Cheeseman**, Associate Professor of Woodwinds, gave the world premiere of *Messy* by Dr. Mark Snyder, Assistant Professor of Music Production and Technology, at the fall Mississippi Music Teachers Association Conference.

**Dr. Shelley Collins**, Assistant Professor of Flute, was featured as a piccolo soloist with the Delta State University Wind Ensemble at the Mississippi Bandmasters Clinic in Tupelo in December 2008.

**Dr. Teri A. Herron**, Assistant Professor of Voice, attended the January 2009 International Conference on Arts and Humanities where she presented two papers; *Songs of the Courtesans: The Social and Musical Impact of Professional Women Musicians in 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Century Venice* and *Tango: Stereotypical Expressions of the Popular Within the Art Music Canon*.

**Dr. Douglas Mark**, Assistant Professor of Low Brass, has been invited to serve as Artist/Clinician at Mississippi State University's 2009 Brass Day. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, he joined members of the "President's Own" United States Marine Band in presenting performances and masterclasses.

**Dr. Christopher Meerdink**, Assistant Professor of Voice, attended the National Opera Association convention in Washington D.C. where he performed on the concert *From This Moment On, A Cabaret of Cole Porter*. Dr. Meerdink joined professional opera singers and colleagues from major universities around the country on this performance.

**Dr. Jung-Won Shin**, Assistant Professor of Piano, was invited to present a quest artist recital and master class by Murray State University in Kentucky on November 16 and 17, 2008. The recital was part of the Keyboard Music Festival hosted by the Department of Music of Murray State University. A review on Shin's recital is available on the following website: [http://www.murrayledger.com/articles/2008/11/19/columns/main\\_street/col01.txt](http://www.murrayledger.com/articles/2008/11/19/columns/main_street/col01.txt).

On November 11, 2008, **Dr. Karen Fosheim**, Professor of Piano, and **Dr. Christopher Meerdink** performed *3 Songs of the War* by Charles Ives. **Dr. Shelley Collins** joined the duo for the third song, "He Is There!" The performance was entitled *Peace in Flanders Fields: A Commemoration of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Conclusion of the First World War*.



Jung-Won Shin, Shelley Collins, Douglas Mark, and Christopher Meerdink at the Mississippi Music Teachers Association Conference where they performed on the New Faculty Recital.

### Meeting with New Songs and Culture

By Dr. Kumiko Shimizu

The Swedish art song recital presented on January 15<sup>th</sup> was well received. The audience enjoyed the experience of hearing new songs sung in an unfamiliar language and learning Swedish culture from the program notes, poems, and the music. Nature, especially the sea and the forest, is often used as an important part of the songs, and the piano portray those subjects using the broad ranges of harmony, register, and articulations, making the sound orchestral and colorful. This project was funded by Delta State University and The American-Scandinavian Foundation (Thord-Gray Memorial Fund). I sincerely appreciate the support to make the rare opportunity possible for the university and the community.

**DSU HOSTS ANNUAL HONOR CHOIR FESTIVAL** This year marked the highest number of high school students (323) ever to audition for the annual Delta State University Honor Choir festival. Of these, 180 highly talented singers were selected to come to campus on February 13-15. This year's guest conductor was Dr. Daniel Bara, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at East Carolina University. Dr. Kumiko Shimizu, Assistant Professor of Music, served as the accompanist. The weekend concluded with a well-received performance at the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Thanks to all who participated!

**CHAMBER SINGERS PRESENT CHORAL EVENSONG** The DSU Chamber Singers presented a service of Choral Evensong at St. James' Episcopal Church in Greenville on March 1. The choir was accompanied by Dr. Mark Butler, Professor of Music and Organist & Choirmaster at St. James'. The program included music by Herbert Howells and Charles Wood, and the premiere of "At the Name of Jesus" by Richard Waters.

**CHORALE TO SING WITH THE MISSISSIPPI CHORUS** The DSU Chorale will join forces with The Mississippi Chorus and members of the Mississippi Symphony on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Madison. The program will feature music for coronations, including Parry's "I was glad," Handel's "Zadok the Priest," and Mozart's "Coronation Mass." The concert will be conducted Dr. Richard Waters, Director of Choral Activities at DSU. For ticket information, contact The Mississippi Chorus at [www.mschorus.org](http://www.mschorus.org) or call (601) 278-3351.

**SPRING CHOIR CONCERT** The Chamber Singers, Chorale, and Delta Singers, will present their spring concert on Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bologna Performing Arts Center. The Chamber Singers will celebrate Mendelssohn's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday by singing several of his choral compositions. The Delta Singers will perform music composed for choir, piano, and a variety of different solo instruments. The Chorale and DSU Steel Band will collaborate to present Glenn McClure's "St. Francis in the Americas." The concert is free and open to the public. Thank you for supporting our choirs!

## Opera

The Delta State University Opera presented its fall production to a standing-room-only audience in December 2008. The excitement of the audience carried over to the performers on stage, and the night was a roaring success. Mozart ruled the evening with two scenes from *The Magic Flute* and a scene from *The Marriage of Figaro*. The singer-actors also presented scenes from Humperdink's *Hansel and Gretel* and Verdi's *La Traviata*. The highlight of the evening was an extended scene from Gian-Carlo Menotti's *The Consul*. Not only did the singers extend themselves vocally learning the complexities of Menotti's music, but they also incorporated the technique of singing an opera in concert style. In April 2009, DSU Opera students will present an original musical presentation, one which they are composing as part of their class. The 2008-09 school year saw the largest enrollment in The DSU Opera in twenty years. The students are growing consistently in their general knowledge of opera and in the intricacies of being an actor and singing performer.

The DSU Opera has been serving talented students for many years, and it has become an integral part of the DSU Department of Music. Some of its performers have continued to graduate programs of distinction, performed in regional opera houses, premiered in active apprentice programs, or gone on to teach at the university level. Along with the performing opportunities and accomplishments, DSU Opera has also provided an environment in which our music education students have gained the knowledge and self awareness to emerge as successful teachers in our public schools. Many of these teachers have even organized an opera performance in an academic and community setting.

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.



The **New Music Ensemble** founded and co-directed by Dr. Andrea Cheeseman and Dr. Mark Snyder, had a busy inaugural semester. Specializing in performing music from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, from lit rock to classical, the ensemble performed at the Electroacoustic Juke Joint and at the Jay Etkin Gallery in Memphis in addition to their DSU campus concert. This semester, the group posted an international call for scores and received over 40 works from which to choose for their April concert.

*Music Notes* edited by Andrea Cheeseman  
Send all alumni information and change of  
address to: [acheesmn@deltastate.edu](mailto:acheesmn@deltastate.edu)

## Our Alumni Report...

**Clint Boleware, BME (Saxophone) '06** is currently Director of Bands at North Pike High School (along with **Lynn Weaver, MME '01; BME '97**) where they won the Grand Championship at the Copiah Marching Festival in the fall. He and his wife Misti welcomed their first child, Brennan, in June 2008.

**Rebecca Carter, BM (Piano & Oboe) '06** graduated from Louisiana State University with her MM in piano pedagogy in May 2008. She began the Ph.D. program in music education in the fall of 2008 at LSU. In October, she was a presenter at the Louisiana Music Teachers Association convention at Centenary College, Shreveport, LA. She currently teaches group piano courses, secondary piano, and is a graduate assistant for music education courses. Rebecca also teaches a Beginning Group Piano course for children and a piano course for adults through the LSU leisure classes. In addition Rebecca stays busy with a small private studio of piano students who are frequent winners at local piano festivals.

**Desi Melancon Goodson, BME (Voice) '07** and **Tim Goodson, BME (Trombone) '07** are currently living in Vicksburg, MS. Tim teaches choir at Vicksburg Jr. High School. Desi is teaching elementary music at Sherman Avenue Elementary School where she works with over 600 students each week in grades K-3. Her third-grade choir recently entered a Christmas Contest and won first place - \$1,000 to buy new instruments and music for their classroom. Tim and Desi purchased a home in the summer of 2008 and are working to become expert renovators. Both Tim and Desi are looking forward to becoming parents of a baby girl in May 2009.

**Karen Van Devender Goodwin, BA (Saxophone) '01** and **Michael Goodwin, BME (Percussion) '99 MME '01** are currently living in Irving, TX. Michael is head band director for Spence Middle School and plays drums and percussion for Valley Ranch Baptist Church praise and worship band. Karen will graduate from Parker College of Chiropractic with her BS in Anatomy, BS in Health and Wellness, and Doctor of Chiropractic degrees in December '09, when she plans to enter private practice. She also shares her musical talents at Valley Ranch Baptist Church with keyboards, saxophone, and vocals for the praise and worship band.

**Desta Hallmark, BME (Percussion) '08** is taking a semester off to stay home with her seven-month-old son, Troy, and research job possibilities. She and Justin Childress are in the process of planning their wedding for later this year. Desta hopes to begin graduate work in Music Education at the University of Mississippi in the coming year.

**Eileen Carey Jennings, BM (Voice) '07** is pursuing the Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. She recently performed her first operatic role in the *Love for Three Oranges* by Prokofiev, singing the role of Princess Clarissa. Eileen had her premiere role on the IU Musical Arts Center stage in the summer musical *She Loves Me*, portraying Ms. Ilona Ritter. Since arriving at IU, Eileen has sung with University Singers, the university's select ensemble. She is now in preparation for the presentation of the Rachmaninov *Vespers* in February. Eileen has sung in the chorus of IU Opera's *Susannah* and *La Traviata*, the latter directed by Tito Capabianco. Currently, Eileen is in preparation for her first masters recital, featuring selections by Handel, Chausson, Brahms, Massenet, Ottorino Respighi, and Richard Hundley.

**Joey Lott, BA (Voice) '96** serves as Director of Music Ministries at Maples Memorial United Methodist Church in Olive Branch, MS, a position he has held for eight years. Maples has a fully graded music program with 150 musicians from the community involved. This year the ministry will become a Worship Arts Ministry including art, drama, liturgical dance, and music. In August 2008, Joey presented a concert featuring songs from the Harold Arlen Songbook. He is also serving a two-year commitment as chair for the Contemporary Worship Institute with the Fellowship of United Methodist Musicians in Worship and Arts. Joey completed the Master of Music at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1999. He and his wife Lynn (DSU '95) are the parents of Ethan (5) and Jonathan (3).

**Felicia Keenum May, BME (Saxophone) '95** and **John May, BME (Percussion) '93; MME '95** live in Carrollton, TX, just outside of Dallas. Felicia received her Master of Music Education degree from the University of North Texas in 2000. She is Director of Bands at Lake Dallas Middle School, where she has been for 8 ½ years. Felicia has also performed with the Lone Star Wind Orchestra. She has been married to John May since 1997 who currently teaches band at North Garland High School, where he is an assistant band director and percussion coordinator. John has finished the course work toward a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of North Texas and has also performed with the Lone Star Wind Orchestra. He has been published in the July and November 2007 *Instrumentalist*, and more recently in the January 2008 *Newslink*, an online MENC publication.

**Rodney Mayes, BME (Voice) '03**, has been in the Air Force for the past five years and is currently stationed in San Antonio, TX. His job is Communications/Computer Systems Controller-3C2X1. He was recently promoted to Staff Sergeant and is excited about his new, increased responsibilities (and pay, of course). In 2007, he had the opportunity to tour with the infamous Tops In Blue as a keyboardist. TIB is an organization within the Air Force that produces a USO-type show for airmen every year. He toured during 2007 and early 2008. Currently, he is assisting Tops In Blue with their World Wide Talent Competition, a ten-day-long audition process which chooses the following year's cast of performers. Rodney highly encourages anyone who decides to join the Air Force to consider auditioning for Tops In Blue. Rodney still hopes to be chosen for the band career field in the Air Force; only not as a vocalist but also as a piano/keyboardist. He is currently studying private piano at Lackland Air Force Base.

**Jennifer Lungrin Milner BME (Voice) '99** is employed as a K-5 music teacher at South Pontotoc Attendance Center. She teaches over 900 students and directs the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and a 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honor Choirs. Her elementary and middle school honor choirs will attend the Brandon Elementary Choir Festival in April and the Smokey Mountain Music Festival in Gatlinburg, TN in May. Through fund raising efforts, the choirs have already raised \$3,500.00 to defray the cost of their trips. Jennifer had six students chosen to sing with the MS All-State Elementary Honor Choir and four students were selected to sing with TrebleSong, a national honor choir sponsored by the MS GirlChoir. She also has four students who will be auditioning for the All-State Junior High Honor Choir in February. Jennifer and her husband Sean have two daughters, Sarah (5) and Becky (3).

**Darlene McCune, BME (Voice) '98** recently transferred to Natchez High School, Natchez, MS and is now the Director of Choral Activities. She is active in the Natchez Little Theatre and recently sang the role of Maria in *The Sound of Music*.

**Ashley Brown Owen, BME (Voice) '08** is living in Benton, MS and teaching music at Benton Academy, 3K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She is also the music leader at the Pleasant Hill Church of God in Carthage MS. Ashley is married to Jason Owen, and they are the proud parents of baby girl Emma Claire.

**Erik Taylor, BME (Voice) '08** is serving as choir director at Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood, MS. He works with the Intermediate Choir, Mixed Choir, Advanced Mixed, Showchoir, Gospel Choir, and teaches two General Music classes. Eric is also the organist for Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Cleveland, MS.





The **DSU Community Drumming Experience** is preparing for a campus concert on February 24, at 7:30 in the DSU Student Union. In addition to campus performances, the group has performed at the Bolivar County Relay for Life, the Cleveland Christmas Parade, and Pillow Academy. The group performs traditional West African rhythms and dances and contemporary and original songs and rhythms and is led by Dr. Karen Fosheim.

The Performing Arts Ensemble, HeartBeat Afrika was in residence at DSU during the week of November 3-7. During their residency, the group gave a variety of lectures, performances, and workshops at DSU and around the Cleveland area. The final concert on the DSU Quad featured performances by HeartBeat Afrika, along with the DSU Collaborative Drumming Experience, DSU Drumline, DSU Jazz Band, and student poets. The groups members include Olugbala Manns, master djembe drummer, Elec Simon, tap dancer, street percussion, and member of the show STOMP!, and Q-Nice, national performance poet. HeartBeat Afrika is based in Northeast Ohio.

## Delta State University Summer Trip to Guinea

Summer Session I, 2009

May 28-July 2

Delta State University faculty members Karen Fosheim and Alan Barton, and master drummer Olugbala Manns of Kent, Ohio will be leading a summer trip to Guinea, Africa. During the trip, participants will be housed in a private complex in Guinea's capital city of Conakry, a port city located on the Atlantic Ocean and a diverse urban center with a population of approximately 2 million. Master drummers and dancers from Guinea will offer daily classes on site on West African drumming and dance and DSU travelers will be actively involved in the culture of the area.

Additional highlights include a two-night stay in Paris, France at the onset of the journey, a weekend stay on the beautiful island of Roume, near Conakry, a weekend excursion inland to Kindia, and a traditional weekend-long Dundunba festival at the complex.

DSU students may register for up to 6 hours credit for the trip. General education course offerings include MUS 115: Experiencing Music and SOC 101: Principles of Sociology. Additional courses offered include MUS 440: Music and Cultural Studies and SOC 492: Culture and Community. Cost includes round trip airfare, Paris excursion, all excursions and accommodations while in Guinea. Meals at the complex will be included in the cost and will be prepared by local cooks who will use fresh ingredients from the Atlantic Ocean and nearby farms.

Deadline to register is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members of the community are welcome to register for this trip.

For more information, pricing, and to register, contact Melissa Stewart, Coordinator of Continuing Studies at (662) 846-4833 or e-mail [mstewart@deltastate.edu](mailto:mstewart@deltastate.edu).

## Low Brass Activity

Led by Dr. Douglas Mark, Assistant Professor of Low Brass, the second annual DSU Low Brass Holiday Troupe performed traditional holiday favorites throughout the Cleveland community, and at several locations on the DSU campus. Members of the group included Andy Beasley, Nick Comfort, David Mason, Joe Raymond, Tommy Shroads and Dr. Mark.



*HeartBeat Afrika and music students on the quad*

<b>Swedish Song Recital - Guest Artist: Kathleen Roland</b> , soprano	Jan. 15	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Senior Recital: Ben Tuberville</b> , alto saxophone	Jan. 22	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Honor Band Clinic: Bill Clark</b> , guest clinician	Jan. 29–Jan. 31		
<b>Chamber Concert:</b> Susan Ruggiero-Mezzadri, soprano; Danilo Mezzadri, flute Andrea Cheeseman, clarinet; Kumiko Shimizu, piano	Feb. 3	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>DSU Honor Choir</b>	Feb. 13–Feb 15		
<b>Delta Chamber Players</b> with Courtenay Harter	Feb. 23	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Community Drumming Experience Concert</b>	Feb. 24	7:30 PM	Union 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
<b>Choral Evensong: Chamber Singers</b>	March 1	5:00 PM	St. James Episcopal Church, Greenville
<b>DSU Wind Ensemble Tour</b>	March 2–4		
<b>DSU Wind Ensemble</b>	March 5	7:30 PM	Delta & Pine Land Theatre
<b>DSU Chorale Spring Tour</b>	March 9–10		
<b>DSU Chorale Performance with the Mississippi Chorus</b>	March 10	7:30 PM	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Madison
<b>Faculty Recital: Chamber Works</b> Doug Mark, trombone; Anne-Gaëlle Ravetto, violin; Paul Hankins, trumpet; Larry Bradford, percussion; Jung-Won Shin, piano	March 10	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Faculty Recital: Teri Herron</b> , soprano, Jung-Won Shin, piano	March 12	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Phi Mu Alpha Symphonia: American Music Recital</b>	March 24	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Faculty Recital: Karen Fosheim</b> , piano	March 26	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Steel Band Tour</b>	April 7–8		
<b>Woodwind Chamber Ensembles</b>	April 7	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Faculty Recital: Shelley Collins</b> , flute	April 8	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Senior Recital: Mark Helmstetter</b> , euphonium	April 9	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Junior Recital: Lindsey Roy</b> , mezzo soprano			
<b>Brass Ensembles</b>	April 14	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Opera</b>	April 16	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Jazz Ensemble</b>	April 16	7:30 PM	Delta & Pine Land Theatre
<b>New Music Ensemble</b>	April 20	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Percussion Ensemble &amp; Steel Band</b>	April 21	7:30 PM	Delta & Pine Land Theatre
<b>Student Composition Showcase</b>	April 23	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Spring Choir Concert</b>	April 23	7:30 PM	Delta & Pine Land Theatre
<b>Honors Recital</b>	April 27	7:30 PM	Delta & Pine Land Theatre
<b>DSU Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band</b>	April 28	7:30 PM	Delta & Pine Land Theatre
<b>Guest Artist: Ana Laura Gonzalez</b> , flute Kumiko Shimizu, piano and Mark Snyder, electronics	April 29	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
<b>Senior Recitals: LeMorris Hunt</b> , piano; <b>Amber Horton</b> , percussion	April 30	1:30 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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