Music Notes

Delta State University Department of Music

Spring 2010 Volume 7, Issue 2

Greetings Music Alumni and Friends:

It is a still, chilly, Sunday morning; the temperature is in the teens. Walking outside, the only sound I hear is the frozen grass crunching quietly under my feet. My coffee is hot, and the mug is comfortably warm in my hands. As the sun slowly rises to full shine, the grass glistens. It is a beautiful morning in the Delta!

Over the years, the Department of Music has been fortunate to be in a position to financially assist most students of music in significant ways. It is quite likely that you were one of these students. Music scholarships have helped provide the financial means for many students to achieve their musical and educational goals.

In the Fall 09 edition of *Music Notes*, I wrote that students of music are making decisions to attend DSU based not on just the quality of our music program, but the availability of scholarship dollars. Tuition has increased from \$2,596 in 1999 to \$4,450 in 2009. Next year it will increase yet again. During this same period our pool of scholarship dollars remained unchanged. The result of this combination of events has led to a reduction in the overall scholarship amounts we can offer talented students. This impacts our competitive position with other music schools for recruiting new students to Delta State University. Looking forward, it is vital that we actively develop additional resources that will allow us to improve our ability to financially assist students. Unless we increase our ability to provide financial support for our music students, many of our applicants will go elsewhere.

The cost of higher education from the student/parent perspective is often associated with affordability and access to financial assistance. From our perspective it is also refers to the maintenance or replacement of aging musical instruments (pianos, band instruments, etc.), supporting student travel, educational programs development, and outreach. Developing additional resources for this purpose is vital to the functioning of the programs that serve our students.

As you reflect upon your days at Delta State, I hope you will agree that this is a cause that is worthy of your support. Please consider what role you can play in supporting this cause and respond as generously as you can with a gift of cash, stock, or via credit card. Some of you have already endowed scholarships or give annually the Department of Music. We thank you for your generosity and leadership, but our needs continue to grow. For those who have considered giving to the Department, now is the time to join with your music alumni and friends in supporting the Department of Music. While your contributions are welcome any time during the year, receiving your gift by June 1st will help us best to plan our budget and recruiting strategies for the next year.

For more information about making a contribution to the Department of Music, you may contact me at 662-846-4615 or *phankins@deltastate.edu* or the Delta State University Foundation, Inc. at 662-846-4704 or *foundation@deltastate.edu*.

Warmest regards,

Paul Hankins Chair

Singers Compete in Metropolitan Opera Auditions at DSU

The North Mississippi/West Tennessee District Auditions for the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions program were held at the Bologna Performing Arts Center on Saturday, January 9, 2010. The auditions are co-sponsored by Amici, a regional opera support group, and the Department of Music. The auditions have been held at DSU since 1995.

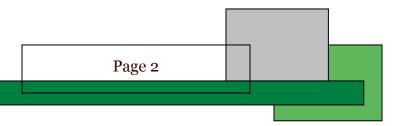
The North Mississippi district directors for the annual event were Dr. Mary Lenn Buchanan and Dr. Mark Butler, Professors of Music at DSU, assisted this year by Dr. Christopher Meerdink and Dr. Teri Herron, Assistant Professors of Music. Since 2008, the auditions alternate between Memphis and Cleveland, as a blended district between West Tennessee and North Mississippi.

The judges for the 2010 Cleveland auditions were Clint Singley, Associate Director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in New York City; mezzo soprano Jane Bunnell, voice instructor at DePauw University in Chicago, Illinois; and tenor Robert Breault, voice instructor and opera director at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, both of whom have had illustrious international singing careers, performing with many major opera companies in the US as well as other countries.

Nine singers from around the US competed. District winners were Nathaniel



Peake, tenor, Houston, TX; Allison Sanders, soprano, Memphis, TN and a student at Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA; and Mississippi-native and former DSU music student John Christopher Adams, tenor, a student at Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. The three winners competed in the Mid-South Regional auditions on February 6, 2010 in Germantown, TN in hopes of representing the region in the Semi-Final auditions and Grand Finals at Lincoln Center in New York City in early March.



Faculty News

Dr. Mark Butler, Professor of Music, provided organ accompaniment for the DSU Chamber Singers on their Fall Concert on November 8, 2009, performing Britten's Festival Te Deum and the Beatitudes by Arvo Pärt. He traveled to Pearl and Vicksburg in December to assist in DSU Honor Band auditions. Butler worked with the 11 high school horn players in the Honor Band in a section workshop during the event held on DSU campus in late January.

Dr. Butler was asked by the Dean of the College of Education at DSU to serve on the host planning committee for a forum sponsored by the IHL's Secondary Content Literacy Committee, to be held at DSU in early March. The forum will bring together selected Delta-area teachers and secondary teacher education faculty from around the state to share views on the teaching of content area literacy, for the purpose of improving teacher preparation and professional development in this area.

Butler has also recently begun to serve as a consultant for the development of an arts outreach and education program at the B.B. King Blues Museum in Indianola, with plans to involve music education students from DSU and MVSU.

He continues to chair the DSU Special Programs Committee and the Curriculum Committee for the Department of Music. He also serves on the DSU Technology Committee and the Music and Liturgy Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi.

Dr. Shelley Collins, Assistant Professor of Flute and Music History, was elected Vice President/President-Elect of the Mid-South Flute Society. She recently performed a recital at the University of Texas at Brownsville and gave a lecture, "Creating Good Practice Habits," for the UT flute studio.

Dr. Karen Fosheim, Professor of Music, gave a workshop for teachers at the Mississippi Music Teachers Association in Hattiesburg in November 2009 entitled "Teaching Musicianship through Drumming". She continues to serve as keyboard area chair for the state association. Fosheim presented a paper for the College Music Society Southern Division Annual Conference in New Orleans, "The Search for an Authentic Performance Practice in the Djembe Music of Guinea" in early February. In November of 2009, Fosheim worked with the DSU Bologna Performing Arts Center to present two African drumming and dance workshops for 35 children ages 4-11 through the Kossman Arts Pass program.

Dr. Teri A. Herron, Assistant Professor of Music, was invited to present her paper "The Importance of Pedagogy: The Art of Singing in the Age of Self-Help" at the Thirty-first Southern Chapter Conference of The College Music Society in New Orleans, Louisiana, in February 2010.

Dr. Douglas Mark, Assistant Professor of Low Brass, presented a lecture recital entitled "Sounds of the American Alto Trombone" at the 31st Southern Regional Chapter Conference of The College Music Society in New Orleans, Louisiana, in February, 2010.

Dr. Christopher Meerdink, Assistant Professor of Music, attended the 2010 National Opera Association Convention, this past January . He performed in two events: *Sacred in Opera Project: The Staging of Oratorio*, singing the part of Obadiah in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and "*Puttin' On The Ritz*" A cabaret of the Music of Irving Berlin.

In addition, Dr. Meerdink co-presented a session entitled, "Children's Opera Project: Children's Opera Today and Tomorrow," with Ms. Kimberley Wolfenbarger-Nakamoto. Dr. Meerdink and Ms. Wolfenbarger-Nakamoto co-chair the National Opera Association Committee on Youth Opera.

Dr. Bret Pimentel, Assistant Professor of Woodwinds, joined the Delta State music faculty in August. He will present a faculty recital at 7:30pm on Monday, February 15, performing favorite repertoire pieces on oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and saxophone.

Dr. Jung-Won Shin, Assistant Professor of Music, presented a guest artist recital at the University of Mississippi in Oxford on November 10, 2009. The recital featured piano works by Beethoven, Bolcome, and Chopin.

She was selected as a recipient of the Mississippi Arts Commission Artist Minigrants in December 2009. Two CDs of her collaborative performances with violinist Sue-Jean Park and soprano Amy Yeung, *Franck and Fauré Sonatas* and *Chansons de la Nuit*, were released in December 2009 and January 2010.

Dr. Richard Waters, Associate Professor of Music, composition "Great Is the Lord" was selected for publication by Santa Barbara Music Publishing. The piece was written for the DSU Chorale's performance at Washington National Cathedral in 2008.

Dr. John Wojcik, Associate Professor of Music, published a Teacher Resource Guide for the concert band piece, *Caccia and Chorale*, by James Clifton Williams. The Resource Guide was included in the eight volume series, *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*, Volume 1, 2nd edition.

Wojcik also performed second trumpet for Handel's Messiah with members of the Mississippi Chorus, Mississippi Symphony and Delta State Chorale in December at the Bologna Performing Arts Center.

DSU HOSTS ANNUAL HONOR CHOIR FESTIVAL

Over 140 talented high school singers from across Mississippi gathered on the Delta State University campus for the annual Honor Choir festival on February 12-14. This year's guest conductor was Dr. Christohper Aspaas, Assistant Professor of Choral/Vocal Music at St. Olaf College. Dr. Kumiko Shimizu, Assistant Professor of Piano at DSU, served as the accompanist. The weekend concluded with a well-received performance at the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Thanks to all who participated!

CHORALE TO SING AT ACDA CONFERENCE

The DSU Chorale will perform at the 2010 Southern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). The performance will take place on Friday, March 12, 2010, at 2:45 p.m. at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts. Alumni who are members of ACDA are encouraged to attend. The Chorale is one of only fourteen choirs from across the region invited to perform. This is the first time that a choir from Delta State has appeared at an ACDA Southern Division Conference.

CHOIRS FINALIZE PLANS FOR EUROPEAN TOUR

Thirty students will pack their bags in May 2010 for a ten-day tour of Austria and the Czech Republic, with performances in Salzburg, Vienna, and Prague. The itinerary also includes guided tours through many historical sites, including Mozart's birthplace, Vienna State Opera, and the Collection of Musical Instruments in Hofburg. 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 or (662) 846-4115. Thank you for your support!

SPRING CHOIR CONCERT

The Chamber Singers, Chorale, and Delta Singers will present their spring concert on Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Cleveland. The concert's theme, "Made in America," will feature music by composers David Dickau, Moses Hogan, Craig Hella Johnson, Morten Lauridsen, Gwyneth Walker, Eric Whitacre, and others. The concert is free and open to the public. Thank you for supporting our choirs!

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

DSU MUSIC STUDENTS COMPETE AT MTNA

This past fall, several DSU music students took part in the annual Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Competition, which was held on November 6th at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS.

The DSU Tuba-Euphonium Quartet won third place in the chamber music category. Group members included Brad Ballard, David Cunningham, James Koestler and David Mason. Trombonist Brian Thomson competed in the solo category.

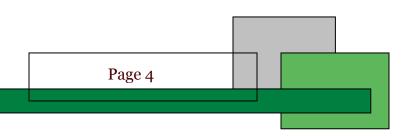
Saxophone students Steven Hugley and Austin White competed in the solo category of the MTNA competition. With Will Bryer and Rondell Evans, they also competed as the Delta State Saxophone Quartet. The quartet performed in Vicksburg in January by special invitation of the Vicksburg Rotary Club.



l-r: Steven Hugley, Will Bryer, Rondell Evans and Austin White



l-r: David Cunningham, David Mason, Brad Ballard and James Koestler



Our Alumni Report...

Kimberly Broadwater (BM 1992), Assistant Professor of Music at Mississippi Valley State University has recently been appointed as Faculty Coordinator of General Education Reform. She remains an active researcher and her recent presentations have included: *The Effects of Singing on Blood Pressure in Classically Trained Singers* at the 26th Annual Care of the Professional Voice Symposium; *Video Conferencing in the Voice Studio: Is the Technology There?* at the Pacific Voice and Speech Foundation And UCLA Voice Center for Medicine and the Arts Voice Conference; and *Environmental Versus Biological Effects of the Human Voice* at the Care of the Professional Voice 36th Annual Symposium.

David Everett (BME 1992) currently lives in Aurora, Missouri with his wife Jan, and two children, Shane, 12, and Kayla, 10. David and Jan lead the music ministry at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Jan serves as the choir director, and David is the organist. David is leading a rather quiet life at the moment, other than raising their children!!

Stephanie Holmes (BME 2004) teaches class piano at Kosciusko High School and serves as the music director at First United Methodist Church in the same city. Besides her school and church responsibilities, she is also the assistant to the editor for the Mississippi Music Teacher.

Robert Jensen (BME 2000) lives in Atlanta, GA and teaches general music and chorus at Hapeville ES for the Fulton County School District. He is a member of the Cobb Symphony Chorus and The Chamber Ensemble. In the spring, Robert will be certified in ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages). This past summer, Robert worked with teenagers in Shreveport, LA to put a new roof on a house with the organization World Changers. In addition to Robert's teaching duties, he also leads a Harry Potter Book club with his fourth graders..

Jennifer Lungrin Milner (BME 2000) is the music specialist at South Pontotoc Elementary where she produces an annual program in each grade K-5. She also leads the Cougar Cub Choir, which has received superior marks at competitions and is invited frequently to perform in and around the area. Jennifer is now a National Board Music Educator. She has enrolled in the Master's of Music Education program at the University of Mississippi. Jennifer is the new MS ACDA Children's Choir Repertoire and Standards Chair, the Vice-President of the MS AOSA Chapter, and is active with MMEA. This year, 5 of her students were selected for the Southern Division ACDA Children's Honor Choir in Memphis in March. Another 3 of her students will be participating in the annual MMEA All-State Elementary Honor Choir in Jackson in April. She is coaching eleven junior high and high school ladies that were selected to participate in Treble Song, an annual all women's honor choir held in Jackson in February.

Shelia & Ashley Miquez (BME 2000) are living in Brandon MS. Sheila teaches elementary music at Pinelake Christian School and private voice at Crossgates School of Fine Arts. Since both of her jobs are part time, Sheila is able to be home at least one day a week with their three beautiful children. Ashley works full time at Ross & Yerger Insurance Agency. He also teaches private guitar and piano lessons at Crossgates School of Fine Arts. Ashley and Sheila attend Pinelake church where Sheila sings in the adult choir and directs the middle school choir. Ashley helps with a ministry in Canton, MS which ministers to low income Hispanic people. Shelia says, "We are living life full of smiles. I played outside today with my cute little baby and our new puppy! It can't get much better than that."

Robert Presley (**BA 2003**) is currently at Delta State pursuing the Integrated Master's of Business Administration degree and a certification in Geospatial Information Technology. He is a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Institutional Grants.

Toni Canizaro Tripp (BME) is teaching Algebra I to freshmen in Raymond, Mississippi and loving it! She is also the music minister at the Catholic church in Clinton. Toni has four children - Savannah, 10, Josie, 7, Levi, 6 and Cade, 5. She is proud of the fact that all of her school-aged children have managed to make honor roll. Toni ran her first marathon (26.2 miles), sponsored by the Mississippi Blues Foundation, three weeks ago in the snow. It was so cold that her hair and shirt were frozen at the end of the race! Toni thought the bands playing along the course were awesome!



Jazz Studies at DSU

The Delta State Music Department is pleased to be offering expanded opportunities for students interested in jazz.

The new Jazz Improvisation course, taught by Dr. Bret Pimentel, gives skilled student musicians the chance to develop their ability to spontaneously create exciting solos in a jazz style.

The new History of Jazz course, also taught by Dr. Pimentel offers music majors and non-majors a survey of "America's classical music" as jazz enters its second century.

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

Delta State Opera

Since the production of **Opera Originale** in April 2009, the DSU Opera has been excited about their activities. **Opera Originale** was the result of original plays written by the students and set to music for the stage. These stories began with one set of words from which the students created different stories to be presented, each one highly unique. Dr. Mary Lenn Buchanan, Professor of Music and DSU Opera Director says, "Creative writing is an integral part of learning. It is a form of personal freedom, which allows the writer an outlet for expression of thoughts, feelings, and imaginations. Working in groups allowed them to collaborate with their peers to organize and develop a team idea. The result of this collaboration was three works titled *The Golden Monkey*, *Bella*, and *To Each His Own*." The students involved in the writing collaboration project also sang the various roles in each work, costumed the characters, and staged their finished products.

In the fall of 2009, the students presented **Ensembles in Opera**. The production highlighted some of the well-known duets, trios, quintets, and sextets in the operatic repertoire. Scenes from four works were performed - *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Cosi fan tutte* by W.A, Mozart, *La Cenerentola* by Gioachino Rossini, and *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss.

The rehearsals never stop for opera performers. With almost thirty performers on stage, March 8, 2010 will reveal an aspect of opera that DSU audiences have never seen. The students are feverously working on a production of Final Fantasy VI – The Opera. This work, taken from the video game by the same name, has been set to music by student composer and

Bachelor of Arts major Gene Kachenovich and will be set in motion by several students enrolled in opera. The evening will also feature a short scene from Monteverdi's **The Coronation of Poppea**. The entire cast will then join for a real hoe-down to produce the opera/musical theater work **Down In The Valley** by Kurt Weill.

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.

First Annual "Art of the Piano" Festival Held At DSU

The Art of the Piano was held January 30, 2010 at the Bologna Performing Arts Center and Zeigel Hall. The purpose of this event was to bring together pianists of a variety experiences from around the Mississippi Delta region to explore music through the medium of the piano. Forty-one K-12 students representing 10 teachers participated in the day-long event. It was a day of recitals, master classes, and workshops for teachers and students. The faculty for this event included Guest Artist Bruce Levingston, along with DSU piano faculty Karen Fosheim, Kumiko Shimizu, and Jung-Won Shin. The students performed in the recitals along with DSU students and the Art of the Piano Faculty. Several students also performed in solo and collaborative master classes.



Participants of the Art of Piano

Students Attend Flute Seminar

Dr. Shelley Collins and six DSU music majors traveled in October to Arkadelphia, Arkansas to attend two days of master classes and performances by internationally renowned flutist Tadeu Coelho. "Dr. Coelho, in addition to being an inspiring performer, teaches a workshop on innovative ways to practice and perform confidently, and I knew our students would benefit greatly from the presentation," explained Dr. Collins. "The students returned from the workshop with renewed enthusiasm for practicing!" On the second day of the workshop, the DSU Flute Studio members joined the Hot Springs Flute Ensemble to perform flute choir works with Dr. Coelho. Additionally, DSU flute student JJ Hatfield applied to participate in the master class and was chosen to perform Bizet's *Carmen Fantasy*.



l-r: David Mason, Robyn Rouse, Katie Reaves, JJ Hatfield, Jennifer Egdorf and Steven Hugley

"Fighting Okra" Marching Band Hosts Band Day

The Delta State, "Fighting Okra" Marching Band had its first High School Band Day during Homecoming on November 7. Twenty-two students from Mississippi schools visited campus and performed with the marching band

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Guest Artist Recital: Ian Hominick, piano	Jan. 25	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Guest Artist Recital: Dr. Kevin Chiarizzio, trombone	Jan. 28	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
The Art of the Piano	Jan. 30	9:30 AM - 5 PM	Recital Hall
Faculty Recital: Anne-Gaëlle Ravetto, violin	Feb. 9	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Dr. Karen Fosheim, piano			
DSU Honor Choir:	February	12-14	
DSU Chorale	Feb. 12	8:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
DSU Honor Choir Concert	Feb. 14	2:00 PM	D&PL Theatre
Faculty Recital: Dr. Bret Pimentel, woodwinds	Feb. 15	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Faculty Recital: Chopin Recital Series, Part I, Dr. Jung-Won Shin, pian	no Feb. 24	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Senior Recital: Joe Raymond, trombone	Feb. 25	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Recital	Feb. 25	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Voice Master Class: Leon P. Turner, bass-baritone	Feb. 28	5:00 PM	Recital Hall
Guest Artist Recital: Leon P. Turner, bass-baritone	March 1	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Chamber Ensemble Competition	March 4	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
DSU Opera Performance	March 8	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
Faculty Recital: Dr. Shelley Collins & Dr. Keith Pettway, flutes	March 11	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Dr. Jung-Won Shin, piano			
DSU Chorale at ACDA Southern Division Conference	March 12	2:45 PM	Cannon Center, Memphis, TN
Guest Artist Recital: Dr. Tracey Schmidt, flute	March 22	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Senior Recital: Sarah Eads, soprano	March 23	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Guest Artist Recital: Chopin Recital Series, Part II	March 29	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Jungwon Anne Shin, piano			
Wind Ensemble Performance	March 30	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
Guest Artist Recital: Piano Due Recital Series, Part III	April 6	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Dr. Karen Fosheim, piano & Michael Schuman, piano	1		
Percussion Ensemble & Steel Band Concert	April 12	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
Brass Ensembles Concert	April 13	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Guest Artist Recital: Chopin Recital Series, Part III	April 14	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Jai Won Choi, piano			
Junior Recital: Steven Hugley, saxophone	April 15	1:40 PM	Recital Hall
NATS MS Conference Competition	April 16 -		D&PL Theatre
Master Class & Career in Music Presentation	April 19	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Recital Hall
Guest Artist: Kimberly Jackson Carballo	p 17	4:00 PM-5:00 PM	
DSU Honor Recital	April 19	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
Guest Artist Recital: "An Evening of Spanish Song"	April 20	7:30 PM	Recital Hall
Kimberly Jackson Carballo, piano & Dr. Teri A. Herron, soprano	7 ipiii 20	7.501111	110011111
Jazz Ensemble Concert	April 22	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band Concert	April 27	7:30 PM	D&PL Theatre
Spring Choirs Concert	April 29	7:30 PM	First United Methodist Church, Cleveland
Spring Choirs Concert	Арт 29	7.30 1 101	1 1150 Office Products Church, Cieveland

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.



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